E/1999/39
E/ESCAP/1165

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
23 April 1998-28 April 1999

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1999

SUPPLEMENT No. 19

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

E/1999/39
E/ESCAP/1155

ISSN: 0252 - 2284

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Abbreviations		(iv)
Introduction	1	1
Chapter		
I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	2	1
A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council	2	1
B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council		1
II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION	3-5	1
A. Activities of the subsidiary bodies	3	1
B. Other activities	4	1
C. Relations with other United Nations programmes	5	1
III. FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION	6-386	2
A. Attendance and organization of work	6-20	2
B. Agenda	21	3
C. Account of proceedings	22-386	4
Inaugural address by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand	23-34	4
Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP	35-37	5
Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations	38-41	5
Membership of the Commission	42-44	5
Policy issues for the ESCAP region	45-97	6
Policy statement of the Executive Secretary	45-55	6
Implications of recent economic and social developments	56-81	7
Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development	82-97	10
Emerging issues and developments at the regional level	98-276	12
Regional economic cooperation	98-142	12
Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its seventh session	99-100	12
Trade and investment	101-120	12
Implications of the Asian economic crisis for sustained industrial and technological development in the region	121-126	14
Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	127-136	15
Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	137-142	16

CONTENTS *(continued)*

	Paragraphs	*Page*
Environment and natural resources development	143-169	16
Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its first session	143-155	16
Natural and man-made disasters	156-159	18
Impact of the economic crisis on the energy sector	160-165	18
Preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	166-169	19
Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	170-203	19
Current policy issues on rural and urban poverty alleviation	171-180	19
Empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific	181-187	21
Report of the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth	188-190	22
Report of the Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific	191	22
Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions	192-198	22
Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	199-203	24
Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	204-237	24
Transport, communications and infrastructure development	206-228	24
Tourism	229-237	27
Statistics	238-271	28
Report of the Committee on Statistics on its eleventh session	238-258	28
Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	259-271	30
Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries	272-276	31
Programme planning	277-302	31
Implementation of the programme of work, 1998-1999	277-285	31
Proposed programme changes for 1999	286-288	33
Proposed programme of work, 2000-2001	289-301	33
Calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 1999-March 2000	302	34
Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	303-346	34
Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies	347-369	38
Asian and Pacific Development Centre	347-352	38
Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	353-356	39
Mekong River Commission	357-360	39
Typhoon Committee	361-369	40

CONTENTS *(continued)*

		Paragraphs	*Page*
	Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	370-383	40
	Review of reform measures undertaken at ESCAP in pursuance of Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997	370-383	40
	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission	384-385	42
	Adoption of the report of the Commission	386	42
IV.	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION		43

Annexes

I.	Programme of work, 2000-2001	49
II.	Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission	81
III.	Meetings of subsidiary bodies	82
IV.	Sales publications and documents issued by the Commission	84
V.	List of publications, meetings and advisory services in 1998	87
VI.	Terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	98
VII.	Rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	100

ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ACU	Asian Clearing Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFACT	Asia Council for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport
AFFA	ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APAA	ASEAN Port Authorities Association
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APETIT	Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ARC	Asian Reinsurance Corporation
ASCOBIPS	Association of Shippers' Councils of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BIMST-EC	Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CFFACT	Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDI	electronic data interchange
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	gross national product
GIS	geographic information systems
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HRD	human resources development
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAPH	International Association of Ports and Harbours
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOMAC	Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation
IRCA	International Railway Congress Association

ABBREVIATIONS *(continued)*

IRU	International Road Transport Union
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IULA-ASPAC	International Union of Local Authorities - Asian and Pacific Section
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSShD	Organization of Railways Cooperation
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PIANC	Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses
POPIN	Population Information Network
RB	regular budget
RCCAP	Regional Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs in Asia and the Pacific
RESAP	Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development
RICAP	Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	Pacific Community
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TRIMS	trade-related investment measures
TRIPS	trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights
TRISHNET	Network of Training, Research and Information Institutes on Human Settlements
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization
WINAP	Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
XB	extrabudgetary

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 23 April 1998 to 28 April 1999, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the eleventh meeting of its fifty-fifth session on 28 April 1999.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission

2. At the first meeting of its fifty-fifth session, the Commission approved the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action.

Change of the name of Macau to Macau, China in the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Noting* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has recommended that the name 'Macau' in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission should be changed to 'Macau, China', effective as from 20 December 1999, with the objective of enabling Macau to continue thereafter as an associate member of the Commission,

"*Decides* to amend paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly."

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

55/1. Sustainable development of inland water transport in the Asian and Pacific region

55/2. Economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region

55/3. Strengthening the cooperation and support of nations in the Asian and Pacific region in addressing the year 2000 problem

55/4. Towards a society for all ages: Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

A. Activities of the subsidiary bodies

3. During the period under review, the following subsidiary bodies held meetings: Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development, Committee on Statistics, and Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The reports of those bodies to the Commission reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

4. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 1998, under the programme of work, 1998-1999 of the Commission, are given in annex V to the present report. To the extent possible, the TCDC modality was applied in those activities, as reported in document E/ESCAP/1145.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

5. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

6. The fifty-fifth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 22 to 28 April 1999.

7. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Tonga
Turkey
Tuvalu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam
Hong Kong, China
Macau
New Caledonia

8. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Romania and South Africa attended. A representative of Switzerland attended under Economic and Social Council resolution 860 (XXXII). Representatives of the Holy See attended under Council decision 244 (LXIII).

9. The session was attended by officials of the United Nations Secretariat representing the Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Commissions New York Office.

10. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Population Fund and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

11. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, World Meteorological Organization and International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Productivity Organization, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission and Typhoon Committee.

13. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, HelpAge International, International Cooperative Alliance, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Organization for Standardization, International Union of Local Authorities, World Conference on Religion and Peace, Women's Federation for World Peace, World Federation of Trade Unions and World Veterans Federation; and from the following organizations in special consultative status: Baha'i International Community, International Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug

and Substance Abuse, Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises; and from the following organization on the roster: International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations.

14. Representatives of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, German Agency for Technical Cooperation, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Japan International Cooperation Agency and SIRA International Corporation Pty Ltd. also attended the session.

15. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(LV)/INF.1/Rev.2.

16. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected HE Ms Nyam-Osoryn Tuya (Mongolia) Chairperson.

17. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: HE Mr Shah A.M.S. Kibria (Bangladesh), HE Mr Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), HE Mr Ou Orhat (Cambodia), HE Mr Wu Donghe (China), HE Mr Johan S. Syahperi (Indonesia), HE Mr Mohammad Ali Nadajafi (Islamic Republic of Iran), HE Mr Nobutaka Machimura (Japan), HE Mr Erlan Idrisov (Kazakhstan), Hon. Beniamina Tinga (Kiribati), HE Mr Alikbek Dj. Djekshenkulov (Kyrgyzstan), HE Mr Phongsavat Boupha (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Hon. Dato Siti Zaharah Binti Sulaiman (Malaysia), HE Mr Catalino Cantero (Federated States of Micronesia), HE Mr Prithvi Raj Ligal (Nepal), Hon. Rosalinda V. Tirona (Philippines), HE Mr Sun Joun-yung (Republic of Korea), HE Mr Zainul Abidin Rasheed (Singapore), Hon. Frederick Fono (Solomon Islands), Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa (Sri Lanka), HE M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra (Thailand), HE Mr Akram A. Mukhidov (Uzbekistan), Hon. Clement Leo (Vanuatu) and HE Mr Nguyen Dy Nien (Viet Nam).

18. The Senior Officials' Segment of the session met in three Committees of the Whole to consider agenda items 1-4 and 6-11. Committee of the Whole I elected Mr Govinda Raj Bhatta (Nepal) Chairperson and Ms Noumea Simi (Samoa) and Ms Kanika Phommachanh (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole II elected Mr A.R. Ghofrani (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairperson and Mr Kaburoro Ruaia (Kiribati) and Ms Kunzang C. Namgyel (Bhutan) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole III elected Hon. Clement Leo (Vanuatu) Chairperson and Mr Omer Benokan (Turkey) and Mr Shaharuddin B. Md. Som (Malaysia) Vice-Chairpersons.

19. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of Mr Anuson Chinvanno (Thailand), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr B.V. Smirnov (Russian Federation) and Mr Lu Yongshou (China) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

20. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons, constituting the Credentials Committee, examined the credentials of all the representatives and found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

21. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.139, E/ESCAP/L.140 and Corr.1).
4. Membership of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1118).
5. Policy issues for the ESCAP region:
   (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments (E/ESCAP/1119 and Corr.1);
   (b) Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development (E/ESCAP/1120).
6. Emerging issues and developments at the regional level:
   (a) Regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1121, E/ESCAP/1122, E/ESCAP/1123, E/ESCAP/1124, E/ESCAP/1125);
   (b) Environment and natural resources development (E/ESCAP/1126, E/ESCAP/1127 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1128, E/ESCAP/1154);
   (c) Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas (E/ESCAP/1129, E/ESCAP/1130, E/ESCAP/1131, E/ESCAP/1132 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1133, E/ESCAP/1134);
   (d) Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (E/ESCAP/1135, E/ESCAP/1136, E/ESCAP/1137);

(e) Statistics (E/ESCAP/1138, E/ESCAP/1139);

(f) Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries (E/ESCAP/1140).

7. Programme planning:

(a) Implementation of the programme of work, 1998-1999, and proposed programme changes for 1999 (E/ESCAP/1141, E/ESCAP/1142 and Corr.1);

(b) Proposed programme of work, 2000-2001 (E/ESCAP/1143 and Corr.1);

(c) Calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 1999-March 2000 (E/ESCAP/1144).

8. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1145).

9. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/1146, E/ESCAP/1147, E/ESCAP/1148, E/ESCAP/1149).

10. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1151 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/1152).

11. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1153 and Add.1).

12. Other matters.

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

22. The session was declared open by the Acting Chairperson of the fifty-fourth session, HE M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra (Thailand). HE Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

23. The Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, extended a warm welcome to all those attending the session.

24. As the current session of the Commission marked the last of its kind in the millennium, the Deputy Prime Minister congratulated ESCAP on its excellent record in promoting activities that had touched the lives and hearts of millions of people in the region for over half a century, and had created hopes and aspirations never before generated by any organization.

25. The Asian and Pacific region was the most diverse region in the world in political, economic and social terms. From the beginning, ESCAP had served as a framework for working together to promote equitable and sustainable economic growth, as well as social progress and justice in respective countries, the region and the world at large. Its impressive achievements were undoubtedly a direct result of the untiring efforts of all the members as well as of the secretariat. The launching of the Asian Development Bank and the Mekong River Commission were just two of its many proud achievements.

26. At the threshold of the new millennium, the future challenges to be faced were still uncertain. Yet there was no denying the fact that globalization had come to dominate the closing years of the millennium. Few countries, if any, could isolate themselves from the effects of world events and global trends, as witnessed by the current financial crisis, which had spread to other regions of the world.

27. Given the nature of today's capital flows, large sums of money could now enter or leave a country at the push of a button. The economic and financial landscape of a country could be changed within days, if not hours. In that ongoing process of globalization, it was information and communication technology that had played a vital role.

28. The Commission was to be congratulated on having selected "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development" as the theme topic for its current session. Those issues were interlinked and needed to be addressed urgently in the context of the current regional economic and financial situation.

29. The applications of that new technology offered new opportunities to enhance the competitiveness and effectiveness of various sectors of the economy, while also implying some loss of national control over the economy. No country could continue to formulate its economic policies in isolation without regard to world trends. That was an undeniable reality. There was, therefore, a need to adjust policies to adapt to the forceful process of globalization. That was necessary not only to minimize economic volatility and to ensure a certain degree of economic security, but also to enable countries to reap the benefits of globalization and liberalization.

30. As the Prime Minister of Thailand had stated in his inaugural address at the Commission a year earlier: "Given the vagaries of the international financial system today, our economic structures and national development strategies have been found wanting." There was therefore an urgent need for reform.

31. Transparency, accountability, efficiency and public participation — four major preconditions for good governance — had become the watchwords for the political and economic management of the next century.

32. Thailand had followed the path of political, economic and social reforms. The lessons learned from the crisis would make the country stronger and enable it to move towards sustained economic growth and prosperity. With the help of friends and partners, the vision of an open society in which good governance was practised by both the public and private sectors, and human rights and fundamental freedoms were respected by all, could be achieved.

33. In facing the challenges of the next millennium, and to survive and move forward with sustainability and prosperity, it was imperative to act now, and to act together. There was a need to forge a partnership among States, between States and international organizations, and between States and civil society. In that endeavour, ESCAP had the advantage of serving as the regional framework to assist member countries in integrating themselves smoothly into the world economy in the age of globalization.

34. The Asian and Pacific region was the most diverse region in the world. That diversity was also its strength. The region symbolized unity in diversity. In facing the challenges of the new millennium, countries needed to equip themselves with vision and sufficient resources.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

35. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session. He expressed gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session, thus reaffirming his country's dedication and commitment to the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations as well as to the promotion of regional cooperation in the economic and social fields.

36. The economic and financial crisis had continued to overshadow developments in the region since the fifty-fourth session of the Commission. The crisis had turned out to be much deeper in its impact and more widespread in its contagion effect than had been anticipated a year earlier. However, a number of significant positive signs were emerging. Especially encouraging was the clear commitment on the part of governments to tackle the problems caused by the crisis. One should not lose sight of the region's many strengths, in particular the dynamism of its investors, the strong work ethic, the high levels of literacy, and major investments made in infrastructure over the years.

37. ESCAP remained committed to assisting the region's developing countries in building their capability to cope with the numerous challenges ahead. One of the Commission's principal purposes was to see how best to address those challenges collectively with a view to accelerating the pace of growth and dealing with increasingly complex social issues.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

38. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the fifty-fifth session of the Commission was taking place at a critical time for the Asian and Pacific region. Several countries were still grappling with the economic and social hardships that followed the failure to take collective action to prevent financial crises, or to ensure speedy recovery and sustained growth when they occurred. Others had achieved some measure of recovery from the economic and financial turmoil that had spread far and wide.

39. The process of globalization and liberalization, while promoting progress, had also served to accentuate differences within and between countries. The challenge was to try and spread the benefits of development to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society.

40. The growing integration of global capital markets, changes in the volume and composition of international financial flows, and the increased diversity and number of international actors had all underscored the need for sound global governance. However, global institutions like the United Nations could not be effective without the support of regional, subregional and national mechanisms.

41. ESCAP, along with regional and subregional organizations, had an important role to play as catalysts and facilitators in that process. The Secretary-General expressed confidence that the Commission's contribution to that effort would help reaffirm the traditional vitality and sense of direction that had become its distinguishing features, and conveyed his best wishes for the success of the session.

Membership of the Commission

42. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1118.

43. The Commission endorsed the proposal that Macau continue its status as an associate member of ESCAP under the name "Macau, China", effective 20 December 1999.

44. It approved a draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council relating to the amendment of paragraphs 2 and 4 of its terms of reference in respect of the change of the name of Macau, to Macau, China.

Policy issues for the ESCAP region

Policy statement of the Executive Secretary

45. The Executive Secretary observed that the impact of the economic and financial crisis had been much deeper than had been anticipated. Seven relatively large economies of Asia had suffered significant output contractions in 1998, compared with only one in 1997 and none in 1996. The output growth of developing economies of the region had almost stagnated in 1998, which constituted the worst performance of the developing countries in the region for the past two decades. In addition, the crisis had been transformed into a social crisis of major proportions in several countries.

46. However, some encouraging signs were now appearing on the horizon. In those very Asian economies where the largest contractions of output had occurred during 1998, exchange rates and stock markets had recovered substantially, foreign exchange reserves had risen significantly, inflation had been generally moderate and interest rates were on a downward trend. There were also incipient signs that consumer and investor confidence was being restored. On the basis of those developments, it was probable that the worst of the crisis was over; however, for that optimistic scenario to be achieved, concerted policy action was required at the national, regional and international levels.

47. At the national level, within a long-term commitment to prudence, macroeconomic management had to be expansionary so as to stimulate aggregate demand and employment deliberately. Efforts towards financial sector restructuring would have to remain a top priority. The legal frameworks for the oversight of both the financial and the corporate sectors, and their relevant institutions, would have to be reformed to promote transparency and accountability. In addition, sizeable public resources would have to be devoted to recapitalizing the weak financial institutions throughout 1999 and beyond.

48. Those economic measures notwithstanding, all governments in the region had an inescapable responsibility to play a central role in ensuring social protection and sustaining social stability. In the short term, budgetary allocations for social services had to be preserved, or even augmented, through the reallocation of expenditure. In the longer term, urgent consideration had to be given to establishing an effective framework of social protection, which included unemployment and social insurance schemes, because in the ESCAP region as a whole, despite considerable progress, poverty continued to haunt the lives of many.

49. Nevertheless, in a globalizing environment, it would be wrong to place the entire onus for recovery on national authorities. Greater international efforts were needed to speed up the recovery process and to prevent, or at least mitigate, economic crises in the future. As far as regional cooperation was concerned, a common framework of managing the financial sector was needed. That included the establishment of common prudential standards, a more uniform classification of non-performing loans, the development of early warning systems and the establishment of a fund that could be disbursed quickly to provide emergency assistance.

50. At the international level, the crisis had demonstrated unequivocally the need to improve the architecture of the international financial system. In that context, a number of issues deserved urgent attention. A lender-of-last-resort facility was required to counteract a pervasive loss of investor confidence. An agreed framework for debt "workouts" was also required, as well as the development of a rule-based system encompassing arrangements for overseeing and, if necessary, regulating, cross-border capital flows. An Asian fund also merited serious consideration.

51. Despite the crisis, the region possessed many strengths, such as the high level of savings, the dynamism of its investors, the strong work ethic, the high levels of literacy and major investments made in infrastructure over the years. Those strengths could be seen in the region's ability to absorb new technology and compete successfully in world markets. Efforts to enhance the long-term competitiveness of countries in the region needed to be maintained. In the context of technology, the rapid emergence of information and communication technologies was a matter of profound significance. Well-conceived policies were needed for the acquisition, adoption and dissemination of such technologies in all sectors of an economy.

52. Subregional and interregional cooperation in trade needed to be further strengthened. For the ESCAP region, trade and investment information exchange should be put on a sounder footing, utilizing the latest information technology. Institutional capacity to deal with the implications of current agreements of WTO and forthcoming negotiations also had to be strengthened.

53. In the light of the recent economic crisis, the need for policies for industrial restructuring had become more urgent than ever. The crisis had highlighted the necessity for countries to strengthen their national competitive advantage through skills development, improvements in their indigenous technological

capacity and upgrading of other production factors. At the same time, liberalization had to proceed in a manner that conformed to the internal conditions and constraints of individual countries.

54. In the field of transport, developing reliable and efficient intraregional and interregional transport linkages to facilitate international and bilateral trade and tourism remained a concern of increasing practical importance. Despite the crisis, the vision of an eventually integrated transcontinental transport system for the efficient movement of goods and people needed to be the binding thread in the policy response of individual governments in that area.

55. The region was faced with many challenging development issues. The core issue was pursuing environmentally sound and sustainable development while addressing a multitude of economic and social problems. Two forthcoming ministerial conferences would provide members with an opportunity to discuss strategic policy responses to some of those issues. The year 1998 had been a difficult one for the ESCAP region but the ESCAP secretariat, in partnership with its sister bodies in the United Nations system and outside, would play its role of assisting members in meeting their development challenges.

Implications of recent economic and social developments

56. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1119 and Corr.1, as well as the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1999*. It noted that the financial crisis which had broken out in South-East Asia in the second half of 1997 had severely undermined the economic accomplishments of countries and had even triggered political and social turmoil in some. Indeed, its effects had extended beyond the region itself and to the world as a whole.

57. The Commission noted that globalization and liberalization had brought enormous changes in the world economy. Globalization offered opportunities for accelerating the development of countries. However, the economic crisis in the region had highlighted the risks associated with globalization. Many countries had found themselves unprepared for dealing effectively with those risks. Some of the least developed countries were also affected, particularly because of a decline in foreign direct investment from countries directly hit by the crisis. That was aggravated by the decline in official development assistance.

58. The Commission observed that there were encouraging signs of a resumption of growth. A number of countries had embarked upon a path of major reforms and restructuring and, with the assistance of the international community, had already made notable progress in overcoming the crisis. Although the situation remained serious, some macroeconomic indicators suggested that there were credible signs of recovery.

59. Many strengths of the region that had enabled it to grow rapidly in the past and achieve unprecedented reductions in poverty remained in place. Those included high levels of saving, an educated workforce and a well-developed infrastructure. The temporary downturn afflicting the dynamic economies did not alter their long-term growth prospects fundamentally.

60. The Commission held the view that, despite the crisis, the phenomenon of globalization was an inevitable trend and would continue. Moreover, globalization had made countries more interdependent and their interests integrated. It would become increasingly difficult for a country to seek development outside the globalization process. The challenge for developing countries was to manage the process of globalization. It was important, therefore, that countries should carry out appropriate structural reforms to benefit from globalization and, at the international level, the world community should ensure that a world economic system developed in such a way as to promote equitable and sustainable development and to secure the equal sharing of economic benefits.

61. At the national level, active and prudent participation in globalization promised development, and that required, *inter alia*, circumspection in the opening of the capital account and improvement of financial supervision and regulation so as to ensure transparency and disclosure by governments, financial institutions and non-financial enterprises. A well-developed financial sector was a prerequisite for effective participation in the process of globalization. Increased attention to accountability and the rule of law, and action against corruption, were also needed. The Commission adopted resolution 55/2 on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region.

62. At the international level, improvements in the international financial architecture were essential. The view was expressed by several delegations that the international financial system needed to be strengthened through mechanisms that supervised and managed global financial markets more effectively, prevented speculative short-term capital flows, provided early warning of impending crises and carried out due surveillance. It was important that markets should become more transparent and supportive of balanced and sustainable global growth.

63. In that context, the view was expressed that, as with WTO in the field of international trade, an institutional arrangement in the area of financial and monetary flows could be established. ESCAP, in close cooperation with other international organizations such as the Bretton Woods institutions, should play an active and constructive role in the design of such a regime. The view was also expressed that, prior to the creation

of any new institution, efforts should be made to reform the existing institutional set-up through, *inter alia*, strengthening the IMF Interim Committee of the Board of Governors on the International Monetary System and achieving better coordination between national regulatory authorities. In that regard, the Commission, while emphasizing the membership in ADB of interested countries of the region, noted the efforts under way at ADB and at the G22 for greater stability in the international financial system. There was some support for the proposal regarding the establishment of an Asian fund as a source of extra liquidity, additional to and not a substitute for IMF, with provisions for special treatment for the least developed countries.

64. The Commission observed that for trade to be an instrument for promoting development, it was important that non-trade issues did not become barriers to thwart the market access of the developing countries and economies in transition. In that context, it was noted that the constraints inherent in the developing economies, such as the low level of industrialization and the inability to access advanced technologies, limited their ability to undertake additional commitments in diverse commercial and economic activities. While some delegations expressed support for a comprehensive new round of multilateral trade negotiations with a balanced and forward-looking agenda, others stressed that a thorough assessment of the impact of existing WTO commitments would be required before entering into any new comprehensive round of negotiations. The Commission stressed the importance of ensuring effective implementation of the provisions for special and differential treatment contained in WTO agreements for the benefit of developing countries.

65. The Commission accorded high priority to regional economic cooperation and the promotion of intraregional trade and investments as a means of responding to the challenges facing the region, and requested the secretariat to extend increased assistance to those countries that were at risk of becoming more and more marginalized in the increasingly globalized world economy that was experiencing rapid technological change.

66. The Commission stressed that international trade and sustained trade and investment liberalization commensurate with the development needs of each country continued to be important determinants of sustainable economic growth. It therefore urged the secretariat to accord high priority to assisting developing countries and economies in transition to integrate more effectively into the multilateral trading system so that a more equitable distribution of benefits accruing from international trade could be obtained.

67. The Commission noted with concern the increasing marginalization of least developed and landlocked developing countries, Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition in world trade, and urged improved market access opportunities, especially where tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade persisted, or where preferential trading margins were being eroded. It requested the secretariat to assist in assessing implementation of the Comprehensive and Integrated WTO Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries, as well as to assist countries seeking WTO membership. The Commission also requested the secretariat to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries in relation to trade facilitation.

68. Despite some positive signs of recovery, major policy responses were needed to deal with the social impact of the economic crisis as the most vulnerable members of society, the poor, the elderly, children, women and the disabled, had been dealt a direct blow. The Commission expressed particular concern about the potentially adverse impact of globalization on equity, both among and within countries.

69. Concern was expressed over the growing adverse social consequences of the economic crisis in a number of countries. Unemployment, malnutrition and the incidence of poverty had increased significantly. The provision of social services had also been affected. Limited and decreasing public resources as a result of the economic crisis were making it difficult to meet the growing demand for social services and to maintain their quality.

70. Widespread poverty continued to be the major challenge facing developing countries. Development of the agricultural sector and the rural areas was considered essential for poverty alleviation. It was emphasized that the least developed countries, where the problem of poverty was very severe, needed special help from the international community. Debt relief and enhanced official development assistance for social, health and education programmes were some of the major initiatives needed.

71. Emphasizing the importance of education, the Commission noted that no economic and social progress was possible without top priority being given to education. It urged members and associate members to intensify their efforts to improve their education systems substantially and to guarantee access to those systems for all.

72. The Commission noted the initiatives taken by the affected countries to minimize the adverse social impact of the economic crisis. Those included public works programmes to generate employment, improvements in food security, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, subsidized loans for self-employment, skills training for the unemployed and the provision of basic services, particularly health and education. Measures also included the prevention of runaway inflation so that the poor could obtain the basic necessities of life at affordable prices.

73. The Commission emphasized the need for further analysis of the social consequences of the economic crisis. It was necessary to spell out policies and programmes to tackle those adverse consequences. Their successful implementation would have a positive stabilizing effect on the economy.

74. Given the fact that the economic crisis had enhanced the need and demand for social services, it was important that social sector allocations by governments were protected or even augmented. Not only should resources for social services be enhanced, but it was important to define priorities in order to derive the maximum positive impact. The most vulnerable groups needed to be identified and resources should be devoted on a priority basis to providing social services for them.

75. One of the major adverse social impacts of the crisis had been a significant increase in poverty as a result of job losses. The existence of an effective unemployment insurance scheme could have minimized that adverse impact. Since most of the developing countries lacked a system of unemployment insurance, the introduction of an institutionalized safety net for the unemployed could be considered.

76. The Commission noted the difficulties emanating from the Asian economic crisis for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups. Urging ESCAP to strive towards a twenty-first century vision of peace and prosperity based on human dignity, the Government of Japan informed the Commission that it would support the "human dignity project", with special focus on community-based initiatives, to be implemented by ESCAP. That would be the first project with funding of around one million dollars from the Human Security Fund being set up at the United Nations with the collaboration of Japan. The Government of Japan attached great importance to the role of ESCAP in addressing problems faced by the most vulnerable groups of society and was particularly interested in following up the highly successful work of ESCAP for disabled persons.

77. The Commission also warmly welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2000 at Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, as part of the initiative of Japan to promote the concept of human security within its vision for the region in the twenty-first century. The Commission stressed that that Conference would provide opportunities to discuss the regional environmental challenges of the new millennium and forge successful cooperation on the environment. The secretariat was requested to ensure that all interested parties were fully involved in the preparatory process.

78. The Commission welcomed the progress made in strengthening the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. In that connection, it noted the successful outcome of the fifth meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Kobe, Japan, in February 1999, owing largely to the wholehearted cooperation and support of the participating countries.

79. The Commission observed that the fruits of technological progress, such as information and space technologies, could be harnessed for the protection of the environment and the pursuit of sustainable development. In that regard, the Commission noted the invitation of the Government of India to all members and associate members to participate in the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which it would host at New Delhi from 15 to 20 November 1999. The Commission expressed the hope that regional cooperation would continue in areas such as combating desertification, sustainable energy resources such as hydropower, integrated water resources development and management, mineral resources assessment and investment promotion, and natural disaster reduction.

80. The Commission noted that 1999 was the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the International Year of Older Persons. It reiterated its commitment to the goals of the World Summit for Social Development addressing the concerns relating to disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, especially at a time of rapid globalization, including bringing older persons into the mainstream of development and meeting the basic needs of those who lacked social security. In that regard, the Commission urged full and early implementation of the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific at the national and regional levels.

81. The Commission observed that the secretariat had played a role in analysing the causes of the economic and financial crisis. ESCAP was thus making regional countries not directly affected by the crisis aware of their own weaknesses, which might lead to economic and financial disturbances if they were not properly addressed. The Commission observed that the secretariat needed to intensify the synergy between its policy and operational functions and enhance its partnerships with all relevant United Nations bodies, and international, regional and subregional organizations, and pursue greater involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in its work. International organizations, including ESCAP, needed to continually modernize and recreate themselves and to concentrate on their core competencies.

Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development

82. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1120, summarizing the theme study which comprised part two of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1999* (ST/ESCAP/1941). It commended the secretariat on the high quality of the report and noted that it contained a timely treatment of pertinent issues. The Commission endorsed the findings and policy recommendations presented in the document.

83. The Commission considered the impact of applications of information technology on the economic and social development of the developing countries of the region. It stressed that the next century would be an era of knowledge and information technology; the contribution of knowledge and information to economic growth would eventually far surpass that contributed by the traditional factors of production: land, labour and capital. Developments in information technology were occurring rapidly and were a basic feature of the globalization process. The increased use of those technologies in developing countries would facilitate their integration into the world economy in a rapidly globalizing world. The achievement of economic progress and well-being was increasingly dependent on the availability of information and the ability of persons, organizations and countries to access, share and utilize it. Improvements in information technology were bringing countries of the region closer together and, with the dramatic reductions in costs, were providing opportunities for the less developed countries to participate in the benefits of the information age. However, it was felt that the rewards remained concentrated in the strongest economies, which were best equipped to take advantage of them.

84. The Commission noted that new applications of information technology exerted a significant influence on national economies in many ways. They were instrumental in improving the efficiency and competitiveness of economies, and in optimizing the allocation of factors of production. Information technology had also played a central role in improving the efficiency of the banking sector and, more widely, in changing the global financial system dramatically so that large sums of money could enter or leave a country at the push of a button. Applications in the trade area using EDI and electronic commerce were important for reducing transaction costs, saving time and opening up innovative strategies for the conduct of international trade, as well as facilitating new types of commercial transactions.

85. The Commission recognized that the application of information technology could play an important role in promoting social development, in working towards more equitable distribution of income and of social services, particularly education and health, in rural as well as urban areas, and in preserving the environment, for example through the monitoring of pollution and urban congestion and the conservation of natural resources. In addition, the use of information technology could assist with the promotion of good governance by facilitating a two-way flow of information between the people and government.

86. The Commission noted that the increased use of information technology brought new and difficult risks to the economic security of countries, which became increasingly exposed to the vagaries of international market volatility. There was thus an inevitable loss of national control over the economy, as no country could now formulate its economic policies without regard for world trends. There were also concerns about the very limited capacity of some countries in the region and their domestic enterprises to utilize information technology, and consequently the increased risks of their further marginalization. In addition, the enhanced use of those technologies by large enterprises, particularly transnational corporations, posed risks for the survival of domestic industries in the developing countries. In the financial area, there were heightened risks of a domino effect with the more rapid spread of economic or financial problems from one country to another and concerns that the largely unmanaged and unregulated international financial system was posing a serious threat to domestic financial markets. There were also concerns associated with disparities in the information provided, and in access, loss of personal privacy and destruction of traditional values and cultural identities.

87. The Commission took note of the policy initiatives of member countries in the development of an information technology infrastructure. National initiatives usually had three basic components: the development of an equitable national information infrastructure, an adequately skilled manpower base and a strong information industry. There was a need for universal service availability at an affordable price within a country and for an effective and supportive regulatory regime for the national information infrastructure. Services should be user-friendly and the information content must meet local needs. Most countries reported that they had a critical shortage of the technical and managerial manpower needed to design, install, operate and maintain such a system.

88. The Commission observed that governments should be at the forefront of the new information age. They needed to develop a vision of how to harness the full potential of information technology. Every government should develop a modern, efficient online public service by integrating applications of information technology into its planning, budget and monitoring systems and by delivering services electronically. More generally, information technology should be used in its decision-making processes and initiatives aimed at

good governance. However, the problems of lack of qualified manpower and management services needed to be addressed in order to accomplish those goals.

89. Existing national policy frameworks for information technology included a variety of strategic directions and initiatives, such as expanding and modernizing communication infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, raising awareness of its applications within communities and industry, integrating information technology education into the general education system and promoting specialized training for professionals in both the hardware and software areas. The frameworks also included setting up an independent telecommunications regulatory body, and reviewing and reforming the relevant national laws, including in relation to the protection of privacy and security of information transmitted digitally. They involved liberalizing or privatizing the telecommunications sector and encouraging competition among the service providers to improve the quality of service, widen the coverage and make prices more attractive.

90. Several governments ran pilot electronic commerce projects jointly with their private sector so as to create awareness, develop appropriate policies and encourage use. They were also promoting the creation of integrated high-tech facilities for raising awareness and use of multimedia technologies by the general public. In addition, some countries reported on their efforts to develop international multimedia and information services centres or establish multimedia development centres for testing technological advances and in which international technology companies could invest.

91. The Commission noted that regional cooperation could play an important role in supporting national efforts. That could take various forms, such as exchange of experience, joint training, advisory services, trade facilitation measures, electronic commerce initiatives and the development of a legal framework for electronic commerce. Regional cooperation could also be helpful in the development of information infrastructure and in narrowing disparities between countries. Another area for regional cooperation concerned developing regional software for common problems or languages. It was emphasized that the least developed countries and the Pacific island developing countries should be part of any regional cooperation initiatives.

92. In regard to regional cooperation initiatives, the Commission noted that Singapore was hosting six courses over the next 12 months in the area of information technology management and Internet applications in order to pass on its expertise and experience to other ESCAP members and associate members. It noted the plans of the Republic of Korea to host a South-South forum for technical cooperation among major research and development institutions of developing countries in November 1999, with a focus on science and technology. It also noted that, on a closely related topic, India would be hosting the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in November 1999.

93. The Commission was informed of a number of initiatives of APEC in the area of electronic commerce. It also noted that the Philippines had hosted the Second Global Year 2000 Summit, in March 1999, which had resulted in the Declaration of Cooperation and Support of Asian Y2K Coordinators; the Declaration would serve as a basis for addressing the year 2000 problem in computers.

94. The Commission suggested that the international community should devise a code of conduct for the use of the information superhighway, including formulating modalities and policy frameworks for the regulation of the global cyberspace electronic commerce market, for Internet banking and for the trading of securities. In that regard, it was necessary to strike a balance between unfettered markets and the need for common ground rules. It was also crucial to have compatible domestic legal frameworks to facilitate cross-border transactions. The WTO obligations to keep markets open and non-discriminatory should be complemented by international regulations on authentication, consumer protection and taxation, as well as non-binding principles or guidelines on other crucial issues. The WTO negotiations on electronic commerce should also take into account the economic, financial and developmental needs of developing countries and ensure that market access and trading opportunities for those countries were not eroded through the substitution of traditional means of conducting commerce by electronic means. Policies concerning duties and taxes on electronic transmission should also be examined within WTO.

95. The Commission urged the secretariat and other international and regional organizations to continue to assist developing countries in the field of information technology through technical assistance and policy advice, as well as by raising the awareness of businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises, of the modalities of the use and advantages of applications of electronic commerce, and by providing training for related human resources development. In that regard, it endorsed the recommendation of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its seventh session that ESCAP should assist its member countries in promoting awareness of electronic commerce among policy makers, consumers and business practitioners, including small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as in providing technical assistance for human resources development on various issues relating to electronic commerce through training programmes for trainers, seminars and training modules.

96. The Commission took note of a recommendation that the possibility should be examined of establishing a regional framework for learning and dissemination of information technology, with particular focus on helping the resource- and technology-poor developing countries. It was recommended that an ESCAP working group should be set up to formulate a regional policy on information technology for the benefit of all developing members and associate members. Another recommendation concerned the development of a joint position for developing countries of the region in international negotiations, particularly WTO, in relation to the reduction of obstacles to the transfer of modern information technology from developed to developing countries, including encryption technologies. There was also a request that ESCAP should form a multidisciplinary team to study the effects of the use of information technology on economic security and recommend ways and means for developing countries to adapt themselves so as to enhance their capability to use those new technologies to assist their development efforts. The Commission also noted that several countries had made requests for further technical assistance, such as that from Sri Lanka to develop its Community Radio Network Programme, under which the conventional radio was used as an interface between the Internet and rural communities.

97. The Commission welcomed the offer of Pakistan to host an Asia-Pacific centre for information and communication technology for the ESCAP region to provide training on both the hardware and software aspects. It requested the secretariat to work out procedures for its establishment and donor countries to provide technical assistance to such a "centre of excellence". It also welcomed the offer by France to share its experience with members of the Commission on developing and implementing its national information technology policy and on implementing a programme on the use of the Internet for development, which it was executing in African countries, and a bilateral cooperation programme with China.

Emerging issues and developments at the regional level

Regional economic cooperation

98. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/1121); documents on emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: trade and investment (E/ESCAP/1122), and implications of the Asian economic crisis for sustained industrial and technological development in the region (E/ESCAP/1123); as well as reports on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/1124), and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (E/ESCAP/1125). It also had before it an information paper containing the report of the Regional Seminar on the Implications of the East Asian Crisis for Sustainable Industrial and Technological Development in Asia and the Pacific and the World at Large (ESCAP(LV)/INF.8).

Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its seventh session

99. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its seventh session and the programme of work under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation, for the biennium 2000-2001. It noted that the meetings of the Committee and its Steering Group had been decisive in shaping the regional agenda in the areas of trade, investment and technology, and expressed appreciation for the high quality of the substantive servicing of those meetings provided by the secretariat.

100. The Commission noted with interest the experience of countries in dealing with the economic crisis and its implications for their development prospects, the pace and sequencing of current and capital account liberalization, the dynamic of trade and investment flows, industrial output and capacity utilization, and technological development. While the general outlook was optimistic, the Commission noted with caution that many developing countries were still vulnerable to external shocks, underscoring the need for continued vigilance and concerted efforts towards economic recovery.

Trade and investment

101. The Commission observed that the economic crisis, having assumed global proportions, was changing the relationship of Asian economies to the global economy, which created a challenging policy environment and put a premium on regional arrangements conditioning economic cooperation. It agreed that strengthening regional economic cooperation was the most effective way to respond to the challenges emerging from the crisis and to find a new balance of risks and rewards of globalization.

102. The Commission acknowledged that, as the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCAP had an important role to play in consensus-building around policy responses, mobilizing new forms of technical and economic assistance, and linking regional thinking to the global search for more coherent macroeconomic and microeconomic policies. In particular, the secretariat was requested to promote preventive measures to safeguard against market failures concomitant with the liberalization process, including economic monitoring, early warning systems and socially oriented economic models adjusted to the prevailing conditions in Asia and the Pacific, as well as to continue providing detailed analysis of the economic situation in the ESCAP region. It was also recommended that the secretariat should

explore ways to improve access by the developing countries to more current information on short-term private capital flows, and analyse the risks associated with those flows; and examine the viability of an institution like WTO for regulating international investment and financial flows.

103. The Commission noted that certain member countries, such as Australia and Japan, had made substantial financial contributions, and some others, such as China, had maintained a stable foreign exchange policy, in order to facilitate economic recovery in the region. It also noted with interest the Comprehensive Development Framework proposed by the World Bank as a way of refocusing the collective attention of international organizations on the complexities of long-term development and unleashing the potential synergies of partnership with regional organizations such as ESCAP. Initiatives of that kind needed to go forward to support national efforts at improving economic governance, as well as to examine new arrangements, especially in the area of finance, which would take into account the risks and rewards of globalization.

104. The economic crisis notwithstanding, the Commission accorded particular importance to maintaining open trade and investment regimes. It supported the universality of WTO membership and endorsed the requests for secretariat assistance in removing obstacles to accession to WTO on non-discriminatory conditions, in identifying and making full use of the elements of special and differential treatment, as well as in improving transparency in the whole WTO process. The Commission noted the enormous need for technical assistance in trade policy formulation, and welcomed the joint ESCAP/WTO regional trade-related training programme.

105. The Commission directed the secretariat to continue addressing the issues relating to trade barriers affecting the exports of the developing countries, particularly non-tariff measures, including quantitative restrictions, para-tariff measures, as well as government procurement practices and the effective implementation of the rules of origin. It was recommended that the issues should be examined in the multilateral context as well as in the context of regional trading arrangements.

106. The Commission stressed the importance of trade in services for long-term sustainable economic development. Significantly, the service sector had withstood the effects of the crisis much better than the goods sector and had evolved rapidly into an important option for the developing countries, including those with a limited export base. However, there was a big gap in the level of development in services, as well as in the relevant legislative frameworks. Therefore, an evolutionary approach, fully consistent with the development needs, was in order.

107. Given that the share of the developing countries in global trade in services was disproportionately small relative to their capacity, the Commission considered it important to promote the liberalization of trade in services, with comprehensive coverage of all sectors and all modes of supply, and with due regard to the principle of progressive liberalization. The secretariat was requested to conduct studies on the impact of liberalization of trade in services and to promote the gathering and exchange of relevant information.

108. The Commission observed that there was little sign of recovery of private capital flows and stressed the importance of promoting foreign direct investment. In that regard, the secretariat was requested to conduct a study that would assist developing countries in addressing impediments to "quality" investment inflows in Asia and the Pacific.

109. The Commission reiterated the importance of trade facilitation and electronic commerce in achieving micro-level efficiency in interregional and intraregional trade. Suggestions were put forward on ways in which the secretariat could expand its activities in that area. Specific requests were made for technical assistance in promoting the integrated use and application of electronic commerce; legal strategies; and technical strategies for national and regional policies aimed at the adoption of inter-operable standards.

110. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should study the impact of information technology and electronic commerce on economic activity and trade, including such areas as access to information technology, encryption technology and infrastructure, with a view to ensuring that market access and trade opportunities for developing countries were not eroded.

111. The Commission recognized that technical assistance was required in areas such as simplification, standardization and harmonization of processes and procedures of international trade; integrated use and application of electronic commerce; adoption of inter-operable standards; use of electronic documents; protection of data/messages for trans-border electronic transaction; dispute resolution mechanisms; electronic contract formulation; and multilateral management of domain name registration and Internet provider address allocations on the Internet. In all those highly specialized areas, there was a need for human resources development and the adoption of legal and technical strategies tailored to the requirements of policy makers, international trade service providers, small and medium-sized enterprises and consumers.

112. The Commission noted with interest the ESCAP project on trade facilitation funded by the Government of Japan for members of SAARC.

113. The Commission noted the proposal made by the delegation of Pakistan for the establishment of a

regional centre of excellence in communication and information technology, and its request to the secretariat for assistance in the establishment and utilization of such a centre.

114. The Commission expressed concern over the volatility of commodity prices and the resulting adverse terms of trade for commodity-dependent developing economies, and acknowledged that commodity risk management was an issue of continuing importance. The secretariat was requested to provide technical assistance in that area, which would include training and exchange of information and experience on market-based instruments, market opportunities, and diversification of agricultural exports. In that context, the Commission welcomed the secretariat's initiative in convening an expert group meeting to examine commodity-related issues.

115. The Commission observed that regional cooperation agreements were instrumental in facilitating market access and could also serve the purpose of greater participation by the developing countries in setting new international standards and for dispute settlement.

116. The Commission recognized the central role of ESCAP in achieving better coordination among subregional organizations, and directed the secretariat to continue its efforts in promoting new subregional and intersubregional initiatives, such as BIMST-EC and SPECA. In that context, the interest expressed officially by the Russian Federation in participating in SPECA in the capacity of a supporting State was noted. The Commission also noted requests for continuing technical assistance to facilitate accession to the Bangkok Agreement.

117. The Commission stressed the importance of access to timely and quality information on trade and investment flows and regimes and supported the secretariat's efforts in upgrading and restructuring its Regional Trade and Investment Information Network. It endorsed the convening of an expert group meeting for that purpose.

118. The Commission noted with appreciation the hosting by the Republic of Korea of the eighth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'99 Seoul), which would be held in October 1999, and encouraged member countries to participate in the Fair.

119. The Commission welcomed the offer of ITC to continue its cooperation with ESCAP in activities at the enterprise level as well as in the development of information services and related human resources development activities.

120. The Commission noted with appreciation the report of the representative of the Asian Clearing Union that Bhutan had decided to join the Union.

Implications of the Asian economic crisis for sustained industrial and technological development in the region

121. The Commission noted with appreciation the findings and conclusions in document E/ESCAP/1123 and observed that countries in the region had been affected in various ways and to a varied extent. While countries such as Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand had been affected directly and witnessed sharply depreciating currencies and rising interest rates, corporate debt levels, unemployment and bankruptcies, especially of small and medium-sized enterprises, other countries, such as the South Asian economies and the Islamic Republic of Iran, had been less affected because their economies were relatively closed; they had nevertheless felt the impact, owing to loss of competitiveness and decreased exports to countries directly hit by the crisis.

122. The Commission noted that the crisis had pushed economic reform and industrial restructuring towards higher value-added and technology-intensive industries, which necessitated the implementation of policies to strengthen and sustain national competitiveness consistent with WTO rules and regulations. In endorsing the recommendations contained in the document, the Commission noted in particular the importance of skills development, upgrading of infrastructure, strengthening of the private sector, development of small and medium-sized enterprises, technology transfer and promotion of industrial complementarities, areas in which ESCAP should play a catalytic role. It was suggested that sectoral information databases should be set up to provide accurate and timely information to industry and policy makers.

123. The Commission emphasized the need for creating a favourable policy framework and strengthening institutional infrastructure and capability for the management of science and technology, especially in view of the current economic crisis and the application of new and emerging technologies. It held the view that while research and development in the public and private sectors should be encouraged, closer partnership among governments, research and development institutions and the private sector could improve the competitiveness of the production sector significantly. It recommended that countries of the region could enhance their cooperation in those areas through the sharing of information and experience.

124. The Commission felt that in the current crisis, competent human resources were a prerequisite for the successful adaptation, transfer and application of new and emerging technologies. Effective management could be very useful in making a choice in the transfer of suitable technology as well as in the proper use of natural and human resources. The Commission, therefore, recommended greater regional cooperation in

human resources development for technological and industrial development and that a study on skills development in the light of emerging and new technologies especially relevant to developing countries should be undertaken.

125. The Commission stressed the importance of the transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technology for the sustainable economic and social development of the economies of the region and for the very survival of some Pacific island countries. In that regard, it urged ESCAP, in cooperation with APCTT, to undertake a study on the transfer of environmentally sound technology and products to developing countries at fair and most favourable terms, as envisaged in multilateral environmental agreements.

126. The Commission welcomed the decision of the Executive Committee of the Consultancy Development Centre of India to establish a full-time working secretariat of the Technical Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific (TCDPAP), which had been set up with the assistance of ESCAP to strengthen technical consultancy capabilities at the national and regional levels and to promote regional cooperation in that area. The Commission recommended that the linkages between TCDPAP and APCTT should be strengthened and that efforts should be made by the secretariat and member countries to enhance programme support for TCDPAP activities.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

127. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology as contained in the report on APCTT (E/ESCAP/1124).

128. It expressed appreciation of the useful activities of the Centre in implementing the transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies to small and medium-sized enterprises and developing the expertise needed for effective technology management and innovation. It noted with appreciation the customized services provided by the Centre to government agencies, consultants, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in supplying information on the technologies that were suitable for and affordable by those enterprises. The Commission suggested that the Centre should continue providing fee-based services to the member countries.

129. The Commission, while noting with satisfaction the initiatives of the Centre, urged it to continue its activities towards facilitating the networking of technology transfer institutions to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation. It noted that modern information technology and the Internet could be used by APCTT to promote technology transfer, especially focusing on small and medium-sized enterprises.

130. The Commission expressed appreciation of the Centre's activities on upgrading its technology information and utilization services, enhancing its in-house database and strengthening its regional networks. It noted the usefulness of the various mechanisms used by the Centre to disseminate information, such as technical periodicals and publications, technology information/transfer networks, partnerships with technology transfer intermediaries worldwide, business meetings and direct contact with entrepreneurs.

131. The Centre was directed to continue and expand its technology management programme focusing on technological capacity-building and human resources development. Its activities in community-enterprise cooperation in research and development, particularly through national and regional training programmes, and in specialized fields such as innovation management, technology acquisition and marketing, technology evaluation and pricing and technology assessment, should be strengthened. Assistance should be provided for the establishment of demonstration and pilot plants at the national and regional levels. APCTT should also explore the possibilities of identifying and promoting indigenous technologies for rural areas.

132. APCTT efforts to facilitate more effective participation of women in the field of technology were commended and it was noted that those activities were directed to women's groups at the grass-roots level and individual entrepreneurs engaged in small and medium-scale production.

133. The Commission suggested that APCTT should examine the beneficial role that advanced and new and emerging technologies could play in enhancing productivity and maintaining the competitiveness of enterprises in the region. The capability for technology assessment, acquisition, transfer, adaptation and adoption needed to be developed through appropriate training programmes.

134. The Commission felt that impact assessments would be useful for APCTT to formulate future programmes and activities, and noted with interest the Centre's initiatives in that regard. It was apprised that an evaluation mission on the work of APCTT had been undertaken in January-February 1999 by independent international consultants.

135. In endorsing the report of the Governing Board of APCTT and its recommendations, the Commission urged member countries to provide the required institutional support for APCTT so that effective assistance could be provided to the countries. It requested donor countries to provide the needed programme support for APCTT activities. It expressed gratitude to the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands for the substantial assistance provided to the

Centre. It also expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its continued support for financial and other host facilities and took note of its request that the endowment fund be made a reality.

136. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Statute of APCTT, the Commission elected, along with the host country, India, the following countries to the Governing Board of APCTT for the period 1999-2002: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

137. The Commission held the view that RNAM was serving a very useful purpose and had greatly assisted the members in developing and promoting agricultural mechanization, including the active exchange of technical information among its participating countries.

138. It took note of the deliberations of the Governing Body and endorsed the report and recommendations. It directed the secretariat to continue seeking extrabudgetary assistance for the approved activities of RNAM for the period 1999-2001. It urged the donor countries, and others in a position to do so, to provide programme support for RNAM projects.

139. The Commission noted with interest that negotiations with the Government of the Philippines were under way for hosting the regional project office in the Philippines.

140. In endorsing the work programme for RNAM, the Commission welcomed the expansion of its activities in the area of human resources development in post-harvest technologies, especially in the areas of food, fruit and vegetable processing and preservation. It also recommended that RNAM could initiate activities for promoting better conditions for working rural women who were affected by agricultural mechanization. It was also emphasized that entrepreneurship development activities should be promoted for such women.

141. The Commission expressed deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its generous support of the workshop on rice transplanting and seeding, to be held in May 1999. It also expressed appreciation of the offer of the Government of India to host Agrimach'2000, together with the possibility of holding the meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and Governing Body in India in that year, with the assistance of the secretariat.

142. The Commission also expressed gratitude to the Governments of China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam for their pledges for the institutional costs of RNAM, and expressed its conviction that other beneficiary countries would pay their membership dues on a timely basis.

Environment and natural resources development

Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its first session

143. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its first session (E/ESCAP/1126). It expressed support for and endorsement of the recommendations of the report, and called upon the secretariat to continue its efforts in the four areas discussed at the meeting: subregional cooperation for environmental programmes; the transfer and adoption of environmentally sound technology; integrated development and management of water resources and economical use of water; and the promotion of the development of remote sensing and special information systems and other space technology applications for environmental monitoring, natural resources development and natural disaster reduction.

144. The Commission considered it imperative to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation to cope with environmental problems in the region. It noted that the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, was beneficial as a guide for the regional implementation of Agenda 21. It also noted that subregional cooperation initiatives were an effective way to address common environmental concerns, especially in the light of the diversity of the countries of the region, and should therefore be accorded high priority and increased funding. It expressed the view that ESCAP had played an important role in supporting subregional environmental cooperation in the region, particularly in North-East Asia, and requested the secretariat to continue to provide technical and administrative support for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. It also requested the secretariat to promote such cooperation in the Caspian Sea area and the Pacific subregion.

145. The Commission recognized the importance of assisting developing countries in building the requisite capacity to adopt, develop and transfer environmentally sound technologies and to implement environmental management systems, such as ISO 14000, in order to cope with the environmental problems stemming from development. Such capacity should be built with due account being taken of the specific needs, priorities and conditions of each country. The Commission noted that capacity-building initiatives, such as those concerning information-sharing and human resources development on issues related to environmentally sound technologies, and on the transfer of such technologies in general, could be realized through APCTT in cooperation with other relevant donor countries and international organizations. In particular, the Commission noted that small and medium-sized enterprises constituted the

backbone of the industrial sector in many developing economies and needed support in capacity-building initiatives for the adoption of cleaner production technologies.

146. The Commission felt that a separate research and development fund to support the indigenous development of environmentally sound technologies, along with a special credit line to facilitate switching from polluting technologies to environmentally sound technologies, merited further consideration in order to assist developing members in the adoption and transfer of such technologies. It encouraged developed countries to provide developing countries with greater support in acquiring environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, and emphasized the important catalytic role that both the ESCAP secretariat and APCTT could play to facilitate that eventuality.

147. The Commission noted with concern the rapidly increasing demand for water following the economic and social development in the region, and the challenge of providing universal access to clean and safe drinking water for the entire population in the new century through the integrated development and management of water resources. In that respect, it recognized the increasing need for the formulation and implementation of strategic approaches in water resources management and endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on the adoption of a holistic approach to water resources development and management, including surface and groundwater resources. It requested that the technical assistance of ESCAP in watershed management be continued.

148. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the recent treaty signed by Bangladesh and India had opened up new opportunities and prospects for water resources management and development in the river basins of those countries.

149. It noted that some developing countries pursuing export-oriented industrialization strategies lacked the technical expertise for the effective exploitation of natural resources. In that regard, the secretariat was requested to provide technical assistance on increased value-added reprocessing of mineral resources and the promotion of foreign investment for the development of the non-metallic mineral sector, while giving due regard to environmental concerns.

150. The Commission noted the importance of space technology applications, particularly remote sensing, in enhancing disaster mitigation activities and food security, and urged the secretariat to facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and technologies from the developed to the developing countries. It urged the secretariat to exert greater efforts and resources to strengthen the national capacity of developing countries in the applications of space technology, including GIS, for environmental monitoring and natural resources assessment, management and development, and distance education.

151. The Commission held the view that the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2000 would be an important occasion on which to review the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, and discuss future directions in the field of environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. It would also provide the opportunity to develop a regional input into the 10-year review session of the General Assembly on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. The Commission welcomed the positive indication of Japan with regard to its inviting the fourth Ministerial Conference to be held at Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka, Japan. The Commission also welcomed the idea of organizing the Conference back-to-back with the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific.

152. UNEP also welcomed the offer from Japan, and expressed the view that the Ministerial Conference afforded UNEP an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with the organizers of the Conference, as well as to further consolidate its own regional cooperation and representation strategy. In addition, UNEP would provide increased technical and financial support for the preparation of the Conference, as well as assist in the preparation of the regional report on the state of the environment.

153. The financial crisis had had far-reaching economic and social consequences, *inter alia* on the capacity of some governments to implement planned activities relating to environmental protection and sustainable development. Those constraints, however, did not imply any decline in the level of commitment of those countries to the principles of Agenda 21. While noting that the responsibility for implementing sound environmental practices and strategies rested with member governments, the Commission requested that the commitments made at the Rio Conference should be fulfilled, and that additional financial and other resources should be made available to developing countries.

154. The Commission called on the secretariat to further strengthen its activities in the integration of environmental considerations into the overall programme of work in various sectoral areas. It also emphasized that an integrated family planning programme and other related programmes should be implemented in line with Agenda 21 and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. It requested the secretariat to develop policy guidelines for the environmental impact assessment of development projects, and to develop

programmes on the integration of population, resources, environment and development, including the role of women in environmental management.

155. The Commission noted the work of the secretariat in promoting strategic environmental management and energy conservation. It called upon the secretariat to continue its efforts to implement Agenda 21 at the regional level, through, *inter alia*, training, exchange of experience, institutional networking and twinning of institutions of developed and developing countries, and closer collaboration with relevant organizations such as UNDP, UNEP and other donor organizations.

Natural and man-made disasters

156. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1127 and Corr.1. It noted the important achievements of countries in their capacity to mitigate natural disasters as reported by various delegations during the past decade. It reiterated the importance of natural disaster reduction for economic and social development in the twenty-first century, and called on governments to attach priority to continuing national efforts in that field, particularly in the five priority areas identified in the document. It recognized the importance and benefits of regional and subregional cooperation in disaster management and mitigation.

157. The Commission endorsed the three common goals for regional cooperation in natural disaster reduction and requested the secretariat to give priority to the development of an integrated regional strategy in the coming century for better coordination of national and international efforts. It commended the secretariat on the various activities undertaken in 1998 in that field and the close collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the preparations for the closing event of the Decade.

158. The Commission noted the continuing and increasing impacts of natural disasters in various countries and the need for increased technical assistance in the forecasting and mitigation techniques of various members. It noted that the recent forest fires and haze events affecting the region had demonstrated that an early warning and monitoring system was important in mitigating environmental disasters. In particular, it noted the importance of space technology applications in natural disaster reduction, especially in monitoring and forecasting meteorological and disaster-related phenomena.

159. The Commission expressed satisfaction that countries in the region had made considerable progress in using remote sensing and other space technology applications for their national activities in disaster management and mitigation and was pleased to note recent developments in the space technology capabilities of various countries in the region. It acknowledged the technological developments of several member countries in space technology which would provide greater opportunities for the use of space technology for natural resources management, environmental monitoring and disaster mitigation. It also noted the offer by various members to share experience in the applications of space technology and disaster management, including desertification, and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, including TCDC, in that respect.

Impact of the economic crisis on the energy sector

160. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1128. It observed with concern the impact on energy prices, the demand/supply gap, reductions in energy demand, financial difficulties, and the slowing down of energy infrastructure development, as reported in the document and supplemented by information provided by several countries. It noted that the sudden currency devaluation which had occurred in some countries had led to domestic energy price increases and thus had an impact on the levels and structure of energy demand and supply. At the same time, the energy industries of some other energy-exporting countries had also recorded sales and revenues that were lower than expected.

161. The Commission noted the various national policy efforts and other measures planned or already undertaken by the affected countries to cope with the impacts of the crisis on the energy sector and to achieve long-term sustainable energy development. Response strategies to cope with the crisis had included energy sector reforms as well as energy pricing and non-pricing measures. Many countries were placing increasing emphasis on efforts to attract additional financing for energy sector development.

162. In formulating and implementing energy sector development and response strategies to the economic crisis, the role of private sector investments had been widely recognized and many incentives were reportedly being made available to raise investor confidence and interest. Exemptions from import duties and reduced rates of taxation, as well as investment and profit repatriation guarantees, were among the concessionary measures that had been undertaken to promote energy sector investments.

163. Increased regional and subregional cooperation in the utilization of natural gas, as well as intercountry power exchange, was suggested for the optimum utilization of resources. The Commission encouraged such cooperation, including exchange of national experience. Technical and economic advisory services and exchange visits of multidisciplinary expert teams were also considered useful. In that respect, it noted with appreciation the offers made by some countries to share their experience.

164. The Commission also emphasized the importance of Agenda 21 in achieving a sustainable

energy future for all. In that context, the importance of the transfer of environmentally sound energy technologies was reiterated, in particular technologies related to clean coal, the harnessing of renewable sources of energy and increased levels of efficiency in energy-intensive end-use sectors.

165. Several countries reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing the implementation of Agenda 21 at the subregional, national and local levels. In the light of the earlier endorsement by the Commission of a sustainable energy future for all, enhanced cooperation was suggested at regional, subregional and national levels to strengthen capability in the development of national action plans. Countries were also encouraged to integrate environmental considerations into their strategic energy planning process.

Preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

166. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1154, concerning the status of preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, scheduled to be held at New Delhi from 15 to 20 November 1999. It noted that, in conjunction with the Conference, the Government of India planned to organize a science symposium from 15 to 17 November 1999, with invited talks on space applications of relevance to the region, and a technical exhibition, "Space 99", from 15 to 20 November 1999, with the participation of major space agencies and aerospace companies; a technical seminar-cum-field study on poverty alleviation among rural disabled persons in 1999; a one-week regional training course on disability statistics in collaboration with SIAP, in December 1999; and a meeting to discuss the progress and strategy of the SAARC Seven Sisters project on district development coordination and improved poverty project design. The Commission expressed deep appreciation to the Government of India for its plans and preparations for hosting the Conference and for the organization of parallel events, and urged members and associate members to participate actively in the Conference and other related events. Recognizing that the Conference was of paramount significance, particularly in prioritizing areas of applications attuned to the needs and aspirations of the countries of the region, the Commission expressed its support for the preparatory activities for the Conference.

167. The Commission acknowledged the achievements gained in space technology development and applications in Asia and the Pacific, as a result of the recommendations made at the first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing in 1994. It stressed the importance of the Second Conference in further consolidating the gains achieved through the network established under RESAP.

168. The Commission noted that RESAP, launched in September 1994 through the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, had provided opportunities and forums for the exchange and dissemination of information about the important role of space technology and its applications in addressing various earthbound problems. However, it held the view that the implementation of RESAP could be made more effective in order to assist developing countries in gaining full benefit from space applications through national capacity-building, technical assistance, information exchange and promotional activities under TCDC arrangements.

169. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue with the activities being implemented under RESAP and to seek funding support from international organizations such as UNDP. It suggested that the future implementation of RESAP should take into consideration the comparative advantages of participating countries under a new paradigm of regional space cooperation. The issue of the establishment of a regional space agency required comprehensive studies on the real needs of the countries.

Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas

170. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1129, E/ESCAP/1130, E/ESCAP/1131, E/ESCAP/1132 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1133 and E/ESCAP/1134, as well as information paper ESCAP(LV)/INF.3. It expressed appreciation of the documents and endorsed the recommendations they contained.

Current policy issues on rural and urban poverty alleviation

171. The Commission noted that poverty remained a serious challenge in Asia and the Pacific. Furthermore, the poverty situation had deteriorated, with increasing numbers of people falling below the poverty line as a result of the current economic crisis, which had affected not only the East and South-East Asian economies but also other countries in the ESCAP region.

172. The Commission recognized that poverty alleviation should be an integral part of macroeconomic policy and noted the positive steps taken by many governments in the region to incorporate poverty alleviation as a major objective in their most recent five-year national development plans. It recommended that governments should ensure that adjustment programmes in response to the serious economic situation did not result in a worsening of the economic and social conditions of the poor, women, disabled persons, older

persons and other disadvantaged groups that had been hit hard by the crisis. Policies and programmes should be designed to strengthen the provision of social safety nets, including the implementation of labour-intensive public works for infrastructure development and maintenance, and other employment-creation programmes targeted at the poorest and the unemployed.

173. It requested the secretariat to provide technical assistance to support national efforts through workshops, field studies and research on diverse policy and programme approaches to poverty alleviation. Emphasis should be given to the organization of social safety nets to meet the basic needs of poor families and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; the implementation of community-based initiatives; the strengthening of decentralization, including local administrative units; and the promotion of collaboration and partnerships among non-governmental organizations and the private and public sectors. The Commission suggested that those issues should be addressed in any research projects to formulate approaches to poverty alleviation; the same applied, for example, to the multidivisional umbrella project of ESCAP on evaluation of the effectiveness of selected country-level responses, policies and programmes designed to mitigate the impact of the crisis. Further, ESCAP should provide assistance to members and associate members on implementing the people-centred development approach, self-help initiatives and the strengthening of family support in the social protection of its members. It was also emphasized that liberalization and market reforms and rural poverty alleviation should continue to be studied and examined by ESCAP to raise the capability of governments to address those issues.

174. The Commission recognized the primacy of population in terms of structure and related demographic aspects, such as size and growth rates, in the efforts of governments to bring about economic and social development for the benefit of the people. In countries that had been successful in reducing fertility and mortality and increasing life expectancy, changes in the age structure of populations had become increasingly important, especially the dramatic growth in the proportion of older persons. With children constituting a smaller proportion of the total population, more resources should be allocated to improving the quality of life of the entire population, but especially youth and older persons. Urgent policy measures were needed to promote reproductive health for adolescents, youth development and family-based support systems for older persons. The Commission reiterated its call for the secretariat to conduct studies on population dynamics and rural poverty.

175. The Government of India welcomed the organization of workshops on poverty alleviation using its centres of excellence. It would host a field study-cum-technical seminar on poverty alleviation among rural disabled persons, to be organized by ESCAP, in follow-up to the relevant decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its first session.

176. The representative of Sri Lanka referred to the successful project implemented in eight countries, including Sri Lanka, with the financial assistance of the Netherlands, which had a direct and substantial impact on rural poverty alleviation. The success-case-replication model implemented under the project had given a return of as much as 54 dollars for each dollar of expenditure to the Sri Lankan rural poor. It was strongly recommended that ESCAP should pursue such activities further in Sri Lanka and in other countries.

177. The Commission recognized the use of information technology as a new way to help alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas. It was noted that in the context of globalization and increased competition, the use of information technology could lead to greater efficiency in industry and a better quality of life for the population. The Commission felt that there was a need for ESCAP to be more proactive in assisting members in enhancing access to appropriate information to increase their competitiveness. The sharing of knowledge and experience in that area could play a pivotal role in achieving success in the information age and finding more effective ways to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life.

178. The Commission stressed the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises for employment generation and improvement of the quality of life of the rural and urban poor, especially in view of the current economic crisis. While many countries had initiated policies and measures for promoting the development of those enterprises, the existing difficulties faced by them in obtaining credit, in upgrading their technological level and in the inadequate availability of skilled personnel were felt to be major concerns. In addition, the Commission pointed out that a wide disparity existed among different areas within many countries in the access to new and emerging technologies, including information technology, and the ability to use those technologies meaningfully. In that connection, the Commission urged ESCAP and APCTT to strengthen their activities in capability-building and the transfer of technologies which had great potential, such as information technology, in upgrading the competitiveness of industry and improving the quality of life, particularly of women and other disadvantaged sectors of the population.

179. The Commission drew attention to the large numbers of disabled persons in poverty and the need for targeted efforts, such as national funding, education and job creation, rehabilitation and monthly allowance schemes, to alleviate their poverty and ensure their protection with regard to working conditions.

180. In further support of regional cooperation to promote the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, the Government of India proposed to organize in December 1999, in collaboration with SIAP and ESCAP, the first regional training course on disability statistics. Drawing from the lessons of the ESCAP-sponsored pilot projects on the promotion of non-handicapping environments, the Commission underscored the benefits of barrier-free built environments that met disabled persons' standards for safety, convenience and usability. Those benefits extended to many other user groups, including older persons, children, expectant women, parents with small children, and frail or ill persons. The Government of Malaysia would welcome the participation of all ESCAP members and associate members in Campaign '99 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, which it would host at Kuala Lumpur from 29 November to 3 December 1999.

Empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific

181. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the continued efforts made by many countries of the region in fulfilling their commitments to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Beijing Platform for Action for the advancement of women and the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific. Those efforts had resulted in significant gains towards the economic and social advancement of women. It noted with satisfaction the progress made in convening a high-level meeting in October 1999 to evaluate the progress made, the obstacles encountered and future action needed in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the Jakarta Plan of Action.

182. The Commission observed that considerable progress had been achieved in promoting women's participation in the economic and social fields in the region, as reflected by the growth in their labour-force participation and improvements in social development indicators such as education, health, maternal mortality and fertility rates. In some countries, special measures and mechanisms had been instituted to examine the impact of structural adjustment programmes on women's employment and to formulate short- and long-term employment policies which had a positive gender impact. However, it expressed deep concern at the continuing disproportionate burden being borne by women during the current economic crisis in terms of loss of employment and increased family responsibilities. Women in poverty, including rural women and other vulnerable groups, faced added economic and social hardships. The Commission recommended that social safety nets and projects and schemes should be implemented to impart skills to women at the grass-roots levels to promote community-based family well-being. It urged the secretariat to carry out comprehensive analyses of the impact of the current economic crisis on the poor, the vast majority of whom were women. It welcomed the inclusion of a project on safety nets for women affected by the Asian financial crisis as one component of the ESCAP umbrella programme of activities to evaluate the socio-economic impact of the economic crisis.

183. The Commission observed that progress had been made in some countries in providing social protection to women. New labour laws had been enacted to promote gender equity in employment, prohibit termination of employment on the basis of pregnancy and enhance maternity benefits. Old-age pension schemes had been introduced with special provisions for widows and women in extreme distress. Changes in the legal framework had been introduced to comply with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, it noted with concern that women were still being exposed to many forms of exploitation and discrimination and urged the countries of the region to make a concerted effort to remove such exploitation and discrimination.

184. The Commission expressed great concern at the continuing economic and social plight of women in poverty. Despite the significant strides made in reducing relative poverty, the number of the absolute poor was still increasing. Many countries had been successful in alleviating the situation of women in extreme poverty through the introduction of innovative micro-credit schemes and improved access to productive resources, including technology and new skills. The Commission felt that continued efforts should be directed at improving the access of women in poverty to productive resources, particularly in the rural sector.

185. The Commission noted the progress made by some countries in promoting the participation of women in the decision-making process. Special provisions had been made in some countries to increase the representation of women in the national- and local-level legislative bodies and government administration. However, the Commission viewed the overall progress in that area as being still far from satisfactory and urged the countries of the region to adopt effective measures to increase women's participation in the decision-making process.

186. The Commission observed that new forms of information technology, such as the Internet, were having a beneficial effect in empowering women. It commended the work of ESCAP in that area, particularly the role of the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific in disseminating information and that of the ESCAP Women in Development Web site in forging greater networking among women in the region.

187. The Commission noted with satisfaction the secretariat's work in promoting women's empowerment

through their greater participation in economic and social activities. In that regard, it noted the assistance provided in promoting women's economic participation; enhancing the participation of women in small business; eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, including combating trafficking in women and girls; assessing the impact of globalization on women and recommending appropriate responses; and strengthening national machineries and networking activities.

Report of the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth

188. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1134, including the proposals for action contained in annex II to that document, in the areas of youth education, youth health, youth employment and national youth policies.

189. The Commission was informed that the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth had been convened by the secretariat in June 1998 as a regional preparatory activity for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held at Lisbon in August 1998. The specific objectives of the Meeting were to assess the regional youth situation, focusing on the human resources development areas of education, employment and health; to formulate an Asia-Pacific input for the draft Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes for the World Conference; and address the special theme of "Elimination of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth", as called for in Commission resolution 53/4 of 30 April 1997.

190. The Intergovernmental Meeting had resulted in the adoption of the Asia-Pacific Position for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, as well as a set of proposals for action to promote the human resources development of youth in the ESCAP region. The secretariat pointed out that the Asia-Pacific Position had subsequently been overtaken by the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth.

Report of the Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific

191. The Commission endorsed the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific and recommended its early implementation. While noting with appreciation that many countries had formulated their national plans of action on ageing in line with the Macau Plan of Action, the Commission called upon the secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance and support, including information and advisory services, in the national implementation of the Macau Plan of Action. In that regard, it noted the need to take advantage of advances in information technology and requested support to member countries in that area, including the setting up of a data bank on ageing and older persons and the continued collection and wide dissemination of information in that field. Finally, it was suggested that, given the momentum for ageing posed by the huge population of the region, the establishment of a regional research and training centre on ageing and older persons should be considered seriously. The Commission adopted resolution 55/4 - Towards a society for all ages: Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific.

Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions

192. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of its resolutions and decisions, as reported in document E/ESCAP/1130.

Resolution 51/2 of 1 May 1995 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific

193. The Commission emphasized the importance of human resources development as a foundation for sustainable development and urged the secretariat to continue to promote regional cooperation in that important field. Given the rich human resources endowment in the ESCAP region, the Commission stressed the need to promote the education and skills development, including vocational training, of the general population, with special measures to ensure access to those opportunities by vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, particularly the poor. With rising unemployment and underemployment afflicting certain countries in the region, including those affected by the regional economic crisis, the secretariat was encouraged to focus on employment-creation and income-generation schemes as a component of its human resources development technical assistance programme. The need to involve the private sector in such programmes was also emphasized by the Commission. Several delegations pointed out that, despite the economic crisis, the allocation of budgets to key human resources development sectors, such as education and health, had not been reduced, and in some cases had been enhanced, thereby reflecting the priority accorded by governments to promoting human resources development at the national level.

Resolution 52/4 of 24 April 1996 on promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific

194. The Commission recognized that the development of the human resources of youth was an investment that yielded high returns for society. Many countries reported the recent establishment of national

youth policies to reflect the priority accorded to youth as a target group for human resources development. The need to address the mismatch between the skills learned by youth in the formal educational system and those required in the labour market was emphasized by the Commission. It also noted the need to ensure a skilled and trained youth workforce as a strategic priority for economic and social development. Delegations reported on their countries' education and skills development programmes for youth; income-generation and employment-creation schemes, including the establishment of a human resources development fund for youth; and the establishment of a national youth coordination mechanism to ensure that youth concerns were addressed in an intersectoral manner. In view of the unemployment and underemployment issues facing young people, the Commission requested that consideration be given to undertaking a regional study on improving the employability of young persons through skills development and vocational training.

Resolution 53/4 of 30 April 1997 on elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific

195. The Commission took note of the secretariat's regional programme, covering 12 countries, in implementation of resolution 53/4. That programme was being financed by the Government of Japan, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UNDCP and UNFPA. The Commission noted that sexual exploitation of children and youth was a form of child labour that needed to be eliminated. It called for action to prevent the incidence of child trafficking, prostitution and pornography in the ESCAP region. It called upon the secretariat to continue its work to strengthen national capacity to protect children and youth from sexual abuse and exploitation. It also drew attention to other subregional and national initiatives in that field, including the adoption by the countries members of SAARC of a declaration to prevent trafficking in women and children.

Resolution 54/2 of 22 April 1998 on the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

196. The Commission reaffirmed its strong commitment to the social development goals and targets in the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region in implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. It urged the secretariat to continue the important regional initiatives that had been taken to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda, including the development of information systems for monitoring social progress and social policy planning, and enhancing the role of the family in development. It also noted the ongoing regional inter-agency consultations in preparing for the regional meeting of senior officials, and particularly the regional input for the global review of the outcome of the World Summit to be held at a special session of the General Assembly in 2000. The Commission recommended that ESCAP, in collaboration with other concerned bodies, should provide support in mobilizing the resources of the donor community in conformity with the 20/20 initiative, to ensure that adequate resources were allocated to meet the basic needs of those in poverty, disabled persons, older persons and other disadvantaged groups.

Resolution 54/4 of 22 April 1998 on mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region

197. Members of the Commission described the programmes that they were implementing in pursuance of resolution 54/4 and the recommendations of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development. Those included family welfare, reproductive health and child health programmes. Some members were participating in Partners in Population and Development - A South-South Initiative, which promoted the exchange of personnel and technical expertise.

Resolution 54/5 of 22 April 1998 on the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages

198. Members of the Commission exchanged national experience and information regarding the situation and prospects for ageing and older persons, the development of policies and programmes as well as the provision of services for older persons with the aim of improving the quality of their lives and well-being. While recognizing that population ageing would pose a challenge to many countries in the region in the decades to come, it acknowledged that integrating older persons into mainstream development and meeting their basic needs should now be made a priority. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the successful implementation of resolution 54/5, including the convening of the Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, held in Macau from 28 September to 1 October 1998, which had adopted the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific. It was noted that, in response to their respective national circumstances, as well as to United Nations resolutions and international and regional mandates on ageing, and on the International Year of Older Persons, many countries had established or strengthened national coordinating bodies on ageing and focal points on older persons. The Commission was informed that the Year was widely observed in the region and that, in many countries, its observance had been marked by the adoption of a national plan of action on ageing.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

199. The Commission recommended that the Centre should continue to strengthen collaborative research and development projects with the members and associate members of ESCAP, covering a broad range of issues concerning the effect of trade liberalization on agriculture, the sustainable development of upland agriculture and poverty alleviation. It urged the Centre, under the human resources development and information services programme, to undertake activities such as workshops and training courses for disseminating and transmitting information and methodologies for socio-economic and eco-regional studies towards policy formulation in agriculture.

200. The Commission also urged the Centre to focus further on the enhancement and stabilization of regional agriculture and rural economies in the region, in particular in the current serious economic situation and fluctuating climatic conditions.

201. The Commission expressed special concern over the continuing unstable condition of institutional support resources, for which a substantial increase in contributions and early allocation by members and associate members were needed. It called for the further strengthening of programme resources and their timely allocation, and the provision of the services of experts by governments, donor agencies and partner institutes, preferably in the form of non-reimbursable loans, so as to ensure the continuity and effective implementation of programme activities.

202. It expressed special appreciation of the successful completion of the revision of the Centre's strategic plan and the external impact evaluation.

203. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions, in cash or in kind, or both, received from the Governments of Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

204. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1135, E/ESCAP/1136 and E/ESCAP/1137. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its first session, including the recommendations. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the work undertaken by the secretariat for the development of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure in the region. It appreciated the collaborative approach taken by the secretariat in identifying opportunities to undertake activities jointly with other United Nations bodies and international organizations, wherever possible.

205. The Commission expressed deep gratitude to the Governments of China, France, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, and to ADB and the World Bank, for their generous support of activities in the field of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development.

Transport, communications and infrastructure development

206. The Commission recognized that an efficient transport and communication system was indispensable for national development, the eradication of poverty, and the prevention of environmental degradation, as well as for integration with global and regional economies. It held the view that the participation of developing countries in the globalization process depended crucially on the efficiency and reliability of their transport and communication services, and that the development of a well-functioning and integrated land and water transport system was a prerequisite for economic cooperation among the countries in the region.

207. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of resolution 51/8 of 1 May 1995 on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific. It noted that work had commenced on 27 out of the 64 operational activities in the regional action programme, and that action had been taken to initiate work on another 8 activities. The Commission requested the secretariat to undertake prioritization of the remaining activities. It noted with concern the inadequate level of funding for the regional action programme, and urged donor countries and agencies, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide additional financial and technical support for its implementation.

208. The Commission recognized the importance of disseminating reliable and updated information on trends in regional developments in transport, communications and infrastructure in providing policy makers and managers with the decision tools for cooperation and development programmes. The impact and implications of the Asian financial crisis had further necessitated review of the changed regional scene of transport and infrastructure sector development. The resumption of the secretariat's publication of the biennial review of developments was therefore considered vital for the finer development of regional development strategies and action programmes. The Commission noted that the preparation of the review was not possible without substantive and timely inputs from members and associate members, and welcomed the country report approach as well as the dissemination of information through the Internet.

209. The Commission endorsed the convening of a ministerial conference on infrastructure in 2001, in lieu of the fourth session of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development scheduled for that year. It was noted that the objectives of the conference would be to review phase I (1997-2001) of the New Delhi Action Plan, to enhance renewed political commitments and to consider the activities to be undertaken during phase II (2002-2006). The importance of ensuring that the issues to be placed before the ministers were of direct relevance was stressed.

210. The Commission expressed support for the conceptual basis of the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance and requested the secretariat to continue to investigate ways of providing the required services with the support of the ECE BOT (build-operate-transfer) Expert Group.

211. The Commission noted the pilot project on sustainable transport policy development being funded by the Government of the Netherlands and undertaken by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. It also noted that the experience gained within the project would be shared with other interested cities of the region when initial outputs were available.

212. While appreciating the secretariat's work in the area of developing regional transport networks and facilitation of cross-border movement of vehicles, goods and passengers, the Commission expressed concern about other related issues which needed to be addressed urgently. It particularly noted the vulnerability of vehicle drivers and crews to HIV/AIDS, the role of the transport sector in the spread of the virus and its potential negative impact on productivity within the industry. In endorsing a recommendation of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development at its first session that responsive programmes in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and control should be formulated and implemented, it requested the secretariat to hold seminars on HIV/AIDS and the transport industry, and to produce publications on the issues and responses which were appropriate in the ESCAP region. One delegation expressed doubt that seminars would be adequate to address the issues.

213. The Commission stressed the increasing importance of land transport, particularly in efficient integration with other modes of transport, to facilitate international and bilateral trade and tourism. In that context, and in view of the fact that there was no other organization in the region besides ESCAP dealing with land transport, the Commission reiterated its strong support for the priority status of the integrated ALTID project, stressing its practical importance to the developing countries in Asia, especially the landlocked States, in providing a choice of reliable and efficient land and land-cum-sea routes.

214. The Commission noted the information provided on progress made in the implementation of the ALTID project at the national and subregional levels, including (a) the recent opening of the Bangabandhu (Jamuna) Bridge in Bangladesh; (b) identifying Asian Highway routes in Turkey; (c) the development of related ports and container terminals in the Russian Federation to improve freight transit between Asia and Europe using the Trans-Siberian Railway; (d) the development of the land transport routes of Pakistan with the Islamic Republic of Iran; (e) an intensive programme of land transport development in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including a new railway line Bafq-Mashhad which reduced the length of the railway route from Central Asia to the port of Bandar Abbas by about 1,000 km; (f) the development of the land transport linkages of Thailand with the neighbouring countries; (g) a new highway from Pyongyang to Nampo in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to be completed by October 2000; and (h) the development of bilateral land transport facilitation agreements to allow bus transport operation along the Asian Highway between New Delhi and Lahore, and Calcutta and Dhaka. It also noted with appreciation the offer of Bangladesh to replace the Sylhet-Tamabil-Gauhati-Imphal route with the Sylhet-Austogram-Karimganj-Imphal route. The ESCAP/World Bank cluster country workshop on private sector participation in road management and financing, held at Dhaka in November 1998, was also noted.

215. The Commission noted the importance of the policy-level expert group meeting to be hosted by Bangladesh in May 1999 to consider the Trans-Asian Railway network in the southern corridor of Asia-Europe routes for the formulation of the Trans-Asian Railway network covering the whole of Asia. It also noted the need for upgrading the Spezand-Kohitaftan railway line in Pakistan, and a request for a feasibility study of a railway link Khushka-Chaman. The efforts in completing gaps in the northern corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway were also noted. The success of the regional UNCTAD/ESCAP seminar on the Rail Wagon Information and Control System (RAILWICS), held at Dhaka in December 1998, with the aim of sharing the Bangladesh Railway experience with other countries, was also noted.

216. The Commission stressed that as the formulation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks covering the whole of Asia would be completed soon, more emphasis should be placed on improving the operational efficiency of the routes. In that regard, the need for the implementation as soon as possible of Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures was stressed. The important inputs provided to that process through the ESCAP/World Bank Regional Technical Workshop on

Transport and Transit Facilitation, held at Bangkok in April 1999, and the priority accorded to the ongoing project on the upgrading of Asian Highway routes, were also noted.

217. The Commission also stressed the need to give increased attention to the issues of maintenance, and private sector participation, as well as safety and environmental protection, in the development of land transport.

218. It stressed the importance of further promotion of the integrated approach to the development of the transport system in Asia, with the Transport Corridor from Europe through the Caucasus to Asia routes constituting an integral part of the ALTID networks.

219. It was also recommended that information concerning the SPECA programme in the field of transport should be made available to the interested countries and organizations so as to promote cooperation.

220. The Commission noted with satisfaction the practical involvement of regional member countries in the programmes being implemented in the water transport sector and the direct benefits that had accrued to them. Special reference was made to activities related to freight forwarding and multimodal transport, and a framework for the formulation of shipping policies. The Commission requested the secretariat to develop training materials and information for wide dissemination and as the basis for ongoing training activities and advisory services in those areas. With respect to freight forwarding and multimodal transport development in the Pacific and Mekong subregions, the Commission noted with appreciation the financial and expert support being provided to the secretariat by France. It was also gratified to learn of the financial and technical support provided by the Government of Japan for the formulation of shipping policies and other important water transport activities. The Commission noted the special transport needs of the Pacific island countries and other island developing countries in the provision of reliable and cost-effective transport services to the scattered and remote outer islands that were widely dispersed in the vast ocean, and which needed urgent attention.

221. Recognizing the increasing importance of private sector involvement in the financing and management of ports, the Commission requested the secretariat to assist countries in establishing a favourable climate in which stakeholders, including governments, the private sector and port workers, could collaborate in creating a suitable environment for attracting investment. In that regard, it noted that the introduction of private sector terminal operations along with public sector operations brought a new dimension to issues such as tariff-setting. It requested the secretariat to undertake a comparative study of regional port charges and tariff structures as the basis for developing guidelines to assist countries in streamlining tariff-setting and establishing key indicators for port performance.

222. With the increasing importance of containerization and related investments, the Commission requested the secretariat to update its study on medium- and long-term demands for container shipping and port development in the region to take full account of the impact of the regional economic crisis on capacity requirements.

223. In view of the rapid changes taking place in the maritime sector and the need to bring together the key industry players, namely, shipowners, ports and shippers, to discuss matters of mutual concern and thereby enhance mutual understanding, the Commission requested the secretariat to place high priority on the establishment of a consultative mechanism to discuss matters of crucial concern and mutual interest and include that activity in the programme of work, 2000-2001. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ESCAP and the Korea Maritime Institute, as a regional institute of excellence which, with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, had assured the availability of the necessary resources to undertake the activities related to tariff-setting and establishing the consultative mechanism.

224. The Commission considered the employment of regional seafarers on the world's fleet to be an issue of great economic and social importance, and endorsed the proposal to establish a regional forum comprising governments, shipping operators and training institutions and to network centres of excellence as an approach to improving the balance of supply and demand. The Commission considered that a supporting publication on human resources development in the maritime sector could assist countries in formulating policies. In that respect, it was pleased to learn that the Philippines, as the world's major supplier of seafarers, was considering hosting the first meeting of the regional forum for ESCAP members and associate members.

225. The Commission welcomed the secretariat's initiative with the member countries in establishing the maritime information network (MARINET) and urged that further work be undertaken to promote the usage of the standard Web site software developed by the secretariat for ports and shipping companies.

226. The Commission noted the vital role of inland water transport in the region, its considerable capacity, operating cost, environmental and investment advantages along with its potential for further development within intermodal transport systems. It reaffirmed the high priority assigned to inland water transport within the regional action programme for the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific. It considered that the successful implementation of the proposed resolution on sustainable development of inland water transport in the Asian and

Pacific region would be of great help to the development of the sector and its integration within overall transport systems. One delegation held the view that the best way of promoting cooperation in that area was through ensuring the enthusiastic participation of all member countries involved in demand-driven projects for regional cooperation. The Commission adopted resolution 55/1 on sustainable development of inland water transport in the Asian and Pacific region.

227. The Commission was pleased to learn that the Netherlands intended to continue its strong support for inland water transport projects and to note that a project for the harmonization of navigation aids along the Mekong River was under consideration for funding as a demonstration of regional cooperation and coordination in the region. It was also pleased to be informed of the technical support provided to the secretariat by the Japan Transport Cooperation Association and financing from the Nippon Foundation for the successful delivery of the ESCAP/IMO Regional Policy-level Seminar on the Safety of Coastal and Inland Navigation, held at Bangkok in November 1998.

228. The Commission emphasized the need for adequate development of infrastructure and, noting the shortage of electric power, requested the secretariat to undertake a study on the development of electric power grids and natural gas pipelines in the South Asian and South-East Asian subregions.

Tourism

229. The Commission reaffirmed the important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of Asian and Pacific countries. It noted that tourism could be an effective tool for sustainable development, contributing to poverty alleviation and the conservation of the natural and cultural environment. It stressed that tourism should continue to receive high priority in the ESCAP programme and urged the secretariat to intensify its activities in that sector.

230. The Commission strongly supported and adopted the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region. It was pleased to note that the World Tourism Organization and several other organizations had expressed willingness to support and cooperate in the implementation of the Plan. It suggested that the following additional issues should receive the special attention of governments and international organizations in implementing the Plan: (a) lack of awareness about the contribution of tourism; (b) lack of community involvement in tourism development; and (c) the need to maximize the positive effects of tourism and minimize its adverse effects. The Commission urged ESCAP, the World Tourism Organization and other organizations concerned to assist countries in undertaking assessment of the economic and social impact of tourism, cultural preservation, and facilitation of travel through improved intermodal and intramodal transport.

231. The Commission stressed the importance of human resources development in the tourism sector and commended the secretariat's initiatives to promote cooperation in tourism education and training through APETIT, established by ESCAP in 1997. It requested the secretariat to support its activities. It was pleased to note that training institutes and organizations in 23 countries and areas were participating in the activities. It welcomed the interest of Turkey in joining APETIT. It noted with interest Malaysia's initiative in developing the required human resources through the Human Resources Development Fund.

232. The Commission was pleased to note that many countries had benefited from the ESCAP Seminar on Developing Ecotourism in the Asian Region, held at Bangkok in November 1998. It requested the secretariat to further strengthen activities related to the environmental management of tourism, the preservation of cultural heritage and the promotion of ecotourism.

233. In that context, the Commission noted the request of Bangladesh for the secretariat's support for the development of ecotourism in the Sunderbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, which had already been declared a heritage site. Extra income generated from that source might also help in protecting the forest from degradation and ensure its survival into the next millennium.

234. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a number of important initiatives to facilitate travel were being taken by Mongolia and Thailand as a follow-up to the ESCAP/World Tourism Organization Seminar on Facilitation of Travel in the Asian Region, held at Phuket, Thailand, in July 1998.

235. The Commission requested the secretariat to further strengthen activities to promote tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion. It also requested the secretariat to provide support for the promotion of tourism in BIMST-EC and ECO member countries. The Commission observed that there was considerable potential for promoting Buddhist circuit tourism in BIMST-EC member countries, and suggested that a tourism infrastructure development project for Buddhist sites should be considered with multilateral funding support.

236. The Commission noted the request that Nepal and in particular, Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, be included in the secretariat's support activities for the promotion of tourism and development of Buddhist tourism sites. It also noted the request of India for assistance in strengthening national capabilities in human resources development in the tourism sector. It took note of the request of Pakistan for assistance in undertaking studies and training related to the role of tourism in employment generation, the impact of foreign investment in tourism, and domestic tourism.

237. The Commission expressed appreciation to Japan for continuously extending financial assistance to tourism activities, and to the Republic of Korea for financing tourism projects and providing an expert in tourism on non-reimbursable loan. It welcomed the decision of Japan to second an expert on tourism to ESCAP on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

Statistics

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its eleventh session

238. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Statistics on its eleventh session (E/ESCAP/1138), held at Bangkok from 24 to 26 November 1998.

239. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Statistics, which it considered to be a very comprehensive discussion of the emerging issues and developments relating to statistics at the regional level. The report had highlighted many concerns which would have a bearing on the future development of national statistical offices in the region. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Committee was a very effective, well-attended and innovative forum in an area in which ESCAP had a comparative advantage. It also noted that during the ESCAP survey on resource allocation, statistics had emerged as one of the priority areas and had subsequently been provided with additional human resources. The Commission expressed appreciation of the rate of programme implementation achieved by the secretariat in the field of statistics, despite the high vacancy rate.

240. The Commission took note of the major conclusions and decisions of the Committee on Statistics. It also endorsed the secretariat's programme of work for 2000-2001 and the priority areas identified by the Committee, including the 1993 SNA, poverty statistics and gender statistics. The Commission also felt that statistics on the informal sector, environment statistics, public sector computerization, and training middle- and senior-level management in information technology should receive priority attention in the programme of work, 2000-2001. A number of specific seminars and workshops were also suggested for inclusion in the programme.

241. The Commission recognized that, in planning and implementing policies and programmes aimed at attaining sustainable economic growth, countries needed timely, relevant and high-quality statistical information in almost all spheres of decision-making. Governments needed constantly to improve their statistical services, institutionalize the collection and dissemination of the required data, and promote analyses and research. The Commission felt that ESCAP should continue to assist countries in developing and improving their capacity to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize data for planning and policy purposes.

242. The Commission noted the effects of the Asian financial crisis on the national statistical services in the countries concerned. In addition to the budget cuts suffered by the national statistical agencies, cooperation from data providers, especially in the business sector, had also deteriorated. On the other hand, the need for timely and accurate data had increased and greater transparency of information was being demanded. In order to help meet the challenge of providing more data with limited resources, the Commission urged national statistical offices in the region to find ways to strengthen technical cooperation with each other.

243. The Commission invited the secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen and promote close coordination of all aspects of its statistical activities with other international organizations. Networking for sharing data and collaboration between international organizations and specialized agencies were considered valid responses to the diminishing resources budgeted for national statistical organizations.

244. The Commission noted with interest that the Committee on Statistics had discussed a set of guiding principles for technical cooperation in statistics. The principles were considered a useful beginning in systematizing the process of providing different groups of countries, including economies in transition, with technical assistance, and in rationalizing the utilization of the financial resources allocated for technical assistance activities. The Commission appreciated the value of the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the secretariat, including regional advisory services, workshops and seminars. While existing modalities of technical cooperation were considered valid, there was a need to take shifting priorities and requirements into account.

245. Recognizing the need to strengthen census-taking capacities in the countries of the region, the Commission urged UNFPA to increase its level of funding for the coming census decade. Several countries reported their plans and the preparatory steps taken for conducting population and housing censuses, and identified their technical assistance and human resources development needs. In that regard, the sharing of experience, particularly that based on best practices, was considered useful. In the light of the potential of the secretariat for assisting countries in their efforts to improve demographic statistics, especially with regard to the 2000 round of population censuses, the Commission recommended that suitable technical meetings, including those of subregional working groups, should be organized. It emphasized that SIAP and the Statistics Division of ESCAP should collaborate in organizing relevant training activities.

246. The Commission noted that the formulation of appropriate poverty alleviation programmes in countries

of the region was to a large extent hampered by inadequate understanding of the poverty phenomenon, and of its causes and consequences. It therefore emphasized the need for cogent measures on estimation of poverty on a uniform basis, and for the development of indicators for assessing and monitoring the poverty situation at the regional, national and subnational levels. It called for the strengthening of national databases to enable comprehensive analyses of the characteristics of the poor to be carried out in terms of such attributes as location, education, occupation and family size. In that context, the Commission welcomed the initiative taken by the secretariat to organize the regional seminar on poverty statistics in June 1999, and expressed the hope that sustained efforts would be made by the secretariat and donors in the field of poverty measurement.

247. In underscoring the importance of gender statistics, the Commission commended the secretariat for implementing projects on improving gender statistics in the ESCAP region, which included the preparation and publication of statistical profiles on the situation of women in 16 countries of the region, and statistical booklets on women and men for 6 selected countries. The Commission noted that those profiles and booklets had been helpful in providing a clear understanding of the important gender-related issues and problems.

248. The Commission noted the IMF initiatives in improving the timeliness and quality of key statistics for policy-making and monitoring through the promulgation of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and General Data Dissemination System (GDDS). The importance of the quality and timeliness of the statistics included in SDDS and GDDS was highlighted during the recent financial crisis in Asia. In many instances, SDDS had drawn the attention of policy makers to the importance of statistics and given the national statistical services a strong case for seeking additional resources. However, the Commission expressed concern about the benefits to be gained from the more stringent reporting standards proposed by IMF in SDDS in view of its potential to divert statistical resources from other important areas of statistics.

249. Nevertheless, the Commission suggested that ESCAP should play a coordinating role in the implementation of SDDS and GDDS in the region. To help countries in meeting the IMF requirements, as well as their own priorities for statistical development, it was proposed that a seminar on the implementation strategies for SDDS and GDDS be included in the programme of work, 2000-2001.

250. The Commission expressed appreciation of the assistance provided by the secretariat in the implementation of the 1993 SNA. Although countries might have adequate knowledge of the conceptual and theoretical bases of SNA, very frequently they lacked the practical skills of actual compilation. Further international cooperation was needed in the implementation of the 1993 SNA. The Commission asked the secretariat to continue providing support in the compilation of national accounts, including regional and subregional accounts, evaluation of household unpaid work and the contribution of the informal sector. It suggested that the compilation of social accounting matrices, input-output tables and quarterly national accounts were among the topics that could be covered in regional workshops.

251. The Commission also felt that the secretariat should take a leading role in improving environment statistics, *inter alia* through a case-study approach, and urged donors to continue their assistance to the project in that field involving subregional workshops.

252. The Commission recalled its own terms of reference pertaining to the collection, evaluation and dissemination of statistical information and reaffirmed that mandate. It considered that the four regular statistical publications *(Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, Asia-Pacific in Figures* and *Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific)* provided a useful contribution and should be continued. It suggested that the contents and coverage of the publications should undergo continued review so as to meet contemporary needs for data. It also suggested that statistical data should be disseminated through CD-ROM and other electronic media.

253. The Commission noted the continued difficulties that the secretariat faced in making the ESCAP Statistical Information System operational. It considered that the secretariat should devote adequate resources to establishing a functioning statistical database that had the potential to become a key regional repository for reliable and comparable social and economic data; the database should have a dynamic link to the ESCAP homepage. The Commission urged the secretariat to coordinate its database development activities with those of other international statistical organizations.

254. The Commission noted that the adoption of information technology tailored to particular country needs and office environments was an effective way to improve national statistical capabilities. It appreciated the increased emphasis that the secretariat had placed on organizing group training and expert group activities to accelerate the adoption of information technology in national statistical offices. In particular, it noted that the Seminar on the Application of Information Technology in National Statistical Offices, hosted by the National Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea at Taejon in December 1998, and the ongoing UNFPA-funded project on the application of new technology in population data collection, processing, dissemination and presentation, and its working party, had been effective vehicles in promoting the efficient use of information technology. It requested the

secretariat to give high priority to information technology management training in statistical offices and in the public sector.

255. The Commission noted that the awareness about the year 2000 (Y2K) problem had grown significantly in the region and that the secretariat's activities, particularly the Workshop on the Year 2000 Problem in Computers and Strategic Issues for National Statistical Offices, organized jointly by ESCAP and SIAP at Bangkok in June 1998, had contributed effectively to that improvement. It further noted that many governments had launched rigorous government-wide remediation efforts, enforced by legislation and monitored regularly and frequently by high-level lead agencies. Practical solutions included program code modifications and replacement of old mainframes and outdated data entry systems. The Commission reiterated the recommendations of the Committee on Statistics and urged countries to maintain a high level of awareness and persist with remediation action during the remaining months of the century.

256. The Commission recognized that the focus of Y2K preparations in the region was no longer on awareness creation and planning, but on the rectification of systems at the organizational and operational levels, including the finalization of contingency plans. It agreed that strengthening regional cooperation by way of exchanging experience in resolving the problem and sharing available expertise in the region could contribute effectively to the resolution of the problem.

257. The Commission adopted resolution 55/3 on strengthening the cooperation and support of nations in the Asian and Pacific region in addressing the year 2000 problem.

258. The Commission noted with gratitude that, since the fifty-fourth session, the secretariat had received generous extrabudgetary assistance which had contributed enormously to the implementation of operational activities under the statistics subprogramme. Bilateral donors included the Governments of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, while Indonesia and Singapore had provided host facilities for meetings. Multilateral assistance had been provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNFPA and the World Bank.

Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

259. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1139, containing the report on SIAP.

260. The Commission endorsed the decisions and recommendations of the Governing Board of SIAP at its fourth session, and expressed appreciation of the efforts of SIAP in strengthening and upgrading national capabilities in statistics. It recommended that consultations should be pursued to follow up on the recommendations of the Governing Board.

261. The Commission commended the recent initiatives to chart a new direction for SIAP, which had infused considerable dynamism into its training programmes. It supported the restructuring of the Tokyo-based training courses of the Institute in terms of addressing issues relating to the contents and subject matter of the courses, and the organization of SIAP courses in a cost-effective manner, as being beneficial to members and associate members.

262. The Commission welcomed the emphasis by the Institute on the conduct of demand-driven courses which focused on the training needs of the region. It recognized that the number of both training courses and subject areas addressed in the training programmes had expanded. In that regard, the Commission noted that the Institute had commenced providing training through workshops of short duration on specialized subjects in its outreach programme.

263. The Commission concurred with the SIAP strategy of collaborative partnership arrangements with national statistical offices and other relevant international organizations and agencies for the conduct of its training courses, as that had enabled the Institute to access the resources of the counterpart organizations to implement the more diversified work programme.

264. The Commission stressed that the new topics and courses introduced were timely and appropriate. It noted that national statistical offices were also encountering challenges in emerging areas of statistics and that SIAP had a vital role to play as a catalyst in enhancing the capacity-building capability of those offices.

265. The Commission expressed strong support of the provision by SIAP of statistical training for the region through fellowships in different areas, and particularly in the traditional areas of sampling, statistical methodology and data processing. It recommended that those should be continued and expanded to cater for trainees with different background and needs. The Commission also suggested that continued quick response by SIAP to emerging issues in the various areas of official statistics would be an important aspect of its training programmes. The special training requirements of the less statistically developed countries, many of which were lacking in both software and hardware, were also highlighted.

266. The Commission suggested that SIAP should conduct training activities in such subjects as GIS, database development, the year 2000 round of population censuses, poverty statistics, sampling techniques, environment statistics, gender statistics, statistics of trade in services, techniques of data collection, data processing and data retrieval, and data dissemination.

267. The Commission urged members and associate members to respond favourably to initiatives by SIAP

for collaboration in the conduct of its outreach training activities. Several delegations informed the Commission of their proposed collaboration with SIAP in organizing regional and subregional courses. The Commission noted with appreciation that the annual SIAP course on sample design for household and establishment surveys would be organized in the Republic of Korea, and that a three-week course on survey sampling methods and applications would be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also welcomed the proposed organization of a one-week regional training course on disability statistics in India.

268. The Commission recognized that national statistical offices in various countries were strong in different subject areas and suggested that SIAP should organize training activities in collaboration with the offices so that experience could be shared, which would contribute to improving statistics in the region. It also noted the offer of expertise to SIAP for its training programmes.

269. The Commission expressed concern about ensuring the stability of the financial status of SIAP, and several delegations confirmed their continued support. It urged members and associate members to contribute to SIAP, and to increase their cash contributions. It also urged countries and international organizations to contribute to SIAP training programmes by sending experts, including some on a non-reimbursable loan basis. The Commission noted with appreciation the intention of Japan to contribute US$ 1,726,500 in cash and the equivalent of about US$ 2,936,400 in kind for 1999/2000, which was higher than in the previous year, and of India to contribute US$ 15,000 in 1999. It also noted that the Institute would be moving to new premises at the end of 1999.

270. The Commission appreciated the continued programme support of UNDP to SIAP in data collection and compilation and statistical analysis required in the preparation of national human development reports, which would influence the collection of the appropriate data by national statistical offices through the use of standard statistical methodologies.

271. The Commission placed on record its gratitude to the Government of Japan for its generous contribution to SIAP, in both cash and kind, as well as for its strong support and the provision of fellowships for the Institute. It also expressed gratitude to those members and associate members that had made contributions to SIAP, including many generous cash and in-kind contributions to support the Institute's regional training activities, as well as to FAO, UNEP and the World Bank for their collaboration with SIAP.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

272. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/1140). It endorsed the recommendations on the two substantive issues contained in the report: the effective utilization of development assistance, and multi-agency integrated initiatives for the development of exports.

273. The Commission noted with satisfaction that most least developed, landlocked and island developing countries had formulated macroeconomic reform policies to mobilize domestic resources, enhance the effectiveness of the public sector and provide greater opportunities for the private sector. It recognized that continued support from the international community was now more urgent than ever in order to integrate the economies of those countries into the global economy. In view of the need for capital, technology and skills in those countries, the Commission urged the secretariat to explore innovative modalities for strengthening capacity in such areas as managing capital inflows, technology transfer and industrial development strategies.

274. The Commission welcomed the offers of economic and technical cooperation by several developing countries in such areas as agriculture, family planning, public health and urban development for the benefit of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. Those developing countries expressed their readiness to continue to strengthen economic and social development in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries through the transfer of knowledge and appropriate technology. Such measures could eventually lead to the development of home-grown, self-reliant solutions to cope with obstacles having a long-term impact on those economies.

275. The Commission expressed appreciation to donors, the secretariat and ESCAP/POC in particular, for supporting activities for the benefit of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries.

276. With reference to the agenda of the sixth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, it was suggested in the course of the deliberations that one economic issue, such as transport and tourism, and one social issue, such as the commercial exploitation of children, should be included. The secretariat was requested to take that suggestion into consideration and to consult the Pacific island countries in finalizing the agenda items.

Programme planning

Implementation of the programme of work, 1998-1999

277. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1141. It held the view that the report on the implementation of the programme of work, 1998-1999 highlighted the main achievements in the overview and

provided a useful analysis of the utilization of both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources for the period under review in comparison with the previous three bienniums. It recommended that the narrative part of the report under 10 subprogrammes should be improved, with more succinct qualitative analysis. The suggestion was made that the secretariat might provide under each subprogramme a meaningful description of activities undertaken, possibly in tabular form, identifying activity objectives, inputs and outputs and the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources utilized.

278. The Commission expressed satisfaction that, in spite of the reduction in both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, the secretariat had managed to implement a substantial number of programmed activities. It welcomed the efforts of the ESCAP Publications Committee, which had completed its report and prepared the draft "Guide to ESCAP Publication Activities". The Guide would facilitate the preparation of publications and contribute to overall improvement in the quality of ESCAP publications. The Commission requested the timely implementation of the recommendations of the ESCAP Publications Committee and the use of the Guide. It also requested that the secretariat undertake regular monitoring and review of publications, attempt to make the publications programme more demand-driven and report the outcome to ACPR. It expressed support of the secretariat proposal that the introduction of multi-year projects, or annual projects in phases straddling two years, could ease the time pressure and lead to better-quality publications.

279. The Commission welcomed the increasing dissemination of data and information through ESCAP Web sites, which was considered a cost-effective and efficient means of reaching a wider audience. It encouraged the secretariat to continue its efforts to shift resources from the production of publications to the provision of group training and advisory services. It also encouraged the secretariat to promote TCDC in carrying out operational activities. The Commission noted with appreciation the group training and advisory services rendered under the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (Section 21 of the programme budget) in addition to the group training and advisory services provided under ESCAP programmes (Section 17 of the programme budget).

280. The Commission emphasized the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation of the activities undertaken by the secretariat with a view to making objective assessments of their usefulness, quality and effectiveness. It recommended that the advisory services and group training conducted by the secretariat should be reviewed to enhance their cost-effectiveness and to ensure that the specific needs of the concerned member and associate member governments were met. The Commission noted with appreciation the evaluation exercise undertaken jointly in 1998 by the secretariat and the Government of Japan to assess the impact of selected technical assistance projects implemented under the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. The outcome of the evaluation exercise had been published and made available to the delegations attending the current session of the Commission.

281. The Commission commended the secretariat on the successful organization of the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair ASPAT' 98, including the technical seminars and the related publications on how to do business in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, which were the very first ESCAP publications giving comprehensive information in English on the subject. It noted in particular that the indicative projected and negotiated sales from the Fair had been estimated at more than US$ 6 million.

282. The Commission appreciated the implementation of a series of pilot projects on the promotion of non-handicapping environments for persons with disabilities and older persons, which had produced tangible results and multiplier effects. It supported the initiative of ESCAP in strengthening development partnerships in social development activities, particularly with non-governmental organizations and the private sector and regional organizations.

283. The Commission expressed satisfaction that ESCAP/POC had proved to be a highly responsive and appropriate resource for the governments of the Pacific island economies and regional organizations. The secretariat was requested to continue to cooperate with regional organizations such as the Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Community in areas in which ESCAP/POC could complement their ongoing efforts with specific expertise.

284. The Commission noted the efforts exerted by the secretariat to alleviate the vacancy situation and requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the situation further with a view to ensuring optimum use of the regular budget resources allocated to ESCAP for the delivery of mandated programmes.

285. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer by the Government of India to organize various activities in conjunction with the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, as listed in paragraph 165 above. It noted with satisfaction that the preparations for the Conference were progressing smoothly, and expressed appreciation to the Government of India for its generous support in the preparations. The delegation of India called upon government agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and industry from members and associate members to participate actively in the Conference. It also urged all member and associate member governments to participate at the ministerial level.

Proposed programme changes for 1999

286. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1142 and Corr.1.

287. Concern was expressed by some delegations over the proposed deletion of programmed activities. The Commission noted the clarification by the secretariat that some operational activities had been proposed for deletion in the light of uncertainty over the availability of extrabudgetary resources. It also noted that some recurrent and non-recurrent publications had been proposed for deletion as a result of the redeployment of regular budget staff resources. The Commission noted the explanation given by the secretariat that the redeployment of regular budget resources had been decided in accordance with the outcome of the 1997 questionnaire on government assessments of the resource allocations to the programme of work of ESCAP and the mandates of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session. Subsequently, some programmed activities with lesser priority had to be proposed for modification or deletion with a view to releasing the resources for activities with higher priority. The Commission also noted the explanation by the secretariat that the two publications proposed for deletion under subprogramme 3 were non-recurrent discretionary publications, and that the regular budget staff resources originally allocated for undertaking those activities had been redeployed to a higher priority area within the context of ESCAP reform. It was pleased to note that the publication entitled "New approaches in promoting the sustained participation of women in industrial development" would be undertaken by APCTT in collaboration with the secretariat.

288. Following the clarification by the secretariat, the Commission endorsed the programme changes contained in document E/ESCAP/1142 and Corr.1.

Proposed programme of work, 2000-2001

289. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1143 and Corr.1 and information paper ESCAP(LV)/INF.6. It welcomed the anticipated shift from inputs-based to results-based budgeting, which would provide a clear linkage between objectives, expected results and resource requirements. In that connection, it noted the proposal to establish a formal mechanism for identifying performance indicators, and evaluation criteria for the monitoring and review of performance. The Commission noted with appreciation the initiative taken by the secretariat during the seventh session of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation in organizing an informal discussion on the proposed programme of work, which had proved useful in enhancing understanding of the programme structure and its content as well as the concept of results-based budgeting. It requested the secretariat to organize similar informal discussions for the meetings of other committees with a view to enhancing the understanding of member and associate member governments of the programme of work of ESCAP.

290. The Commission noted that the proposed programme of work, 2000-2001 was the first programme formulated on the basis of the cumulative reform efforts of ESCAP, which included the conference structure as determined by the Commission at its fifty-third session, the programme structure as revised by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session and the subsequent organizational restructuring effected by the Executive Secretary.

291. The Commission held the view that the proposed programme of work, 2000-2001 provided a good picture of future activities and the underlying policies. It supported the continued focus on the three major themes: regional economic cooperation, poverty alleviation, and environment and natural resources development. The Commission stressed the importance of ESCAP assistance to members and associate members in overcoming the economic and financial crisis in the ESCAP region and responding to challenges arising from globalization. It recommended that the secretariat should study the experience of the Republic of Korea in achieving a speedy recovery and regaining the momentum of economic growth. In the light of the current economic crisis, the issue of development of skills training, human resources development in small and medium-sized enterprises, and skills development of disadvantaged groups should also be given attention in many programme activities to be undertaken by the secretariat.

292. The Commission, while noting the large membership and diverse needs of the region, considered it essential for the secretariat to further sharpen the focus of its programme of work on more selected areas so as to allocate more resources to those areas and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes. It was necessary for ESCAP, deemed the main economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region, to continue to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of its programme of work in response to the changing economic and social circumstances and emerging needs of its members and associate members, which in turn would create the opportunity for additional extrabudgetary resources to be provided by traditional and new donors.

293. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in streamlining the publications programme for 2000-2001. It also commended the emphasis placed in the proposed programme of work on increasing the dissemination of information through ESCAP Web sites and databases.

294. The Commission requested the secretariat to further enhance the collaboration and coordination with other agencies in the implementation of its programme

of work with a view to ensuring optimum results in terms of financial and human resources input in relation to benefits for the countries in the region.

295. The Commission noted the requests by some member governments for increased activities on various aspects of water resources development and management, and for continuation of the provision of advisory services in that field in the programme of work, 2000-2001. It took note of the request by a member government that more emphasis be placed on promotion of the use of renewable energy, which was in general environmentally friendly, as well as the request that studies be undertaken on prospects for the establishment of regional and subregional offices for collecting data on trade-related investment measures and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and on prospects for the establishment of special economic zones in the region.

296. The Commission noted the request by a member government for assistance in promoting tourism at the subregional level, for example, SAARC or BIMST-EC. It also noted the earlier request by the same member government at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission that activities related to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, the integration of environmental considerations into urban planning, management of the urban environment and capacity-building for improvement of the urban environment be included in the programme of work.

297. The Commission noted the request by another member government that activities related to assistance for members and associate members of the Commission in the process of accession to WTO be included in the programme of work.

298. With regard to the anticipated savings for the Development Account, the Commission held the view that such savings should not be at the expense of the programme of work mandated by it. It noted the explanation of the secretariat that such savings had been identified from the programme support in anticipation of an eventual decision by the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly.

299. The Commission urged donors and international agencies, particularly UNDP, to provide extrabudgetary resources to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work, 2000-2001.

300. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of France to continue its support of the work of the secretariat in the fields of transport and agriculture development and assistance to Pacific island developing economies, as well as possible extrabudgetary funding for the organization of a joint ADB/ESCAP seminar to assist rural populations affected by the financial crisis. It also noted the importance attached by the Government of Japan to activities related to a community-based social safety net and its positive consideration of support for ESCAP to undertake such activities.

301. The Commission endorsed the proposed programme of work, 2000-2001 contained in document E/ESCAP/1143 and Corr.1.

Calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 1999-March 2000

302. The Commission approved the tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes for the period April 1999-March 2000 as contained in document E/ESCAP/1144.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

303. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1145. It was pleased to note the numerous promotional and operational TCDC/ECDC activities implemented by the secretariat in 1998, and the emphasis placed by the secretariat on the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries as well as the economies in transition. It also noted that, under the cooperation arrangement entered into between ESCAP and the Government of Malaysia on a third-country training programme, two training courses had been organized in Malaysia, in which 11 trainees from least developed and Pacific island developing countries had participated. Similarly, two training courses had been implemented in Singapore in March 1999 within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on such a programme between ESCAP and the Government of Singapore. The Commission held the view that TCDC/ECDC activities, including workshops, seminars and in-country discussions, were an indispensable means of strengthening national, regional and collective self-reliance.

304. The Commission expressed appreciation of the initiatives taken by the secretariat in mobilizing resources to conduct TCDC sensitization workshops aimed at strengthening the TCDC national focal points of selected least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, as well as economies in transition in the ESCAP region, with a view to enhancing their participation in TCDC activities. It welcomed the implementation of the sensitization workshop held at Beijing in July 1998, in cooperation with the Government of China and with funding provided by the Government of Japan. It noted the successful follow-up to the workshop, in which a number of the participating countries had benefited from the various training courses implemented by the Governments of China, Malaysia and Singapore, under their respective TCDC programmes. The Commission welcomed the proposed organization of another TCDC sensitization workshop in China in 1999, involving a larger number of developing countries.

305. The Commission held the view that fully functional TCDC national focal points were essential and constituted the fundamental factor for the success of TCDC/ECDC activities. Accordingly, it urged that such sensitization workshops should be organized annually in order to promote opportunities for the beneficiary countries and to facilitate exchange of experience and expertise on a regular basis. In that regard, it was suggested that networking of TCDC national focal points through the Internet could contribute to more cost-effective virtual TCDC workshops.

306. The Government of India had consistently supported the activities of TCDC. It had provided funding support for the implementation of four projects, relating to the development of inland water transport, infrastructure, promotion of multimodal transport, facilitation of land transport and transport of hazardous goods, under which it was envisaged that numerous activities would be organized in India in 1999-2000. The Commission was pleased to note the strong network of small and medium-sized enterprises which had contributed significantly to the export potential of the country. A network of scientific institutions, with diverse sectors of technology, had also been developed especially for the promotion of such enterprises. The Government of India was pleased to reiterate its offer of expertise in that area to ESCAP members and associate members within the framework of TCDC.

307. The Government of Indonesia had organized 21 training activities since 1997 under its TCDC programme, including one activity conducted jointly with ESCAP. It had also conducted another 12 training courses with support provided by the Government of Japan and JICA. More than 600 participants, including those from the region, had benefited from its TCDC programme, which had focused on economic and social issues. Indonesia had also benefited from training programmes organized by other ESCAP members, including programmes supported by the ESCAP secretariat. Under an agreement with ESCAP in 1997, the Government of Indonesia had allocated US$ 150,000 in support of the TCDC/ECDC activities of ESCAP. Funds had been approved for the implementation of projects and activities in 1999 in the priority areas of economic and social development.

308. The Government of Malaysia reported on the numerous TCDC activities implemented under its technical cooperation programme since its inception in 1980; the programme provided a useful mechanism for sharing development experience among developing countries, including those from the ESCAP region. The Government of Malaysia, in welcoming the status of "capacity" country accorded to it by ESCAP, expressed the desire to learn from the experience and expertise of other developing countries, and requested that it be given an opportunity to participate in TCDC activities as a "beneficiary" country as well.

309. The Government of Pakistan had rendered technical assistance and offered educational facilities to more than 100 countries in several parts of the world, including Asia. In addition, the Government had cooperated with a number of ESCAP members in undertaking activities of various disciplines through the organization of field missions, exchange programmes, workshops and development of the Web page through the Internet, within the framework of TCDC.

310. The Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea International Cooperation Agency, had provided technical training, exchange of experience and transfer of technology to about 130 countries, both within the Republic of Korea and abroad, including those from the ESCAP region, in the spirit of technical cooperation with other developing countries, including third-country training programmes. The country was in the process of holding a South-South forum of research and development institutions with UNDP in 1999, to which ESCAP and its members and associate members would be invited so as to share experience and expertise.

311. In recognizing the tripartite nature of TCDC activities, which included the involvement of the beneficiary countries, the Commission welcomed the initiative taken by the Government of Samoa to allocate an amount of its UNDP resources for its more effective and enhanced participation in TCDC activities. It urged other least developed and Pacific island developing countries to do likewise, and to provide the secretariat with the requisite data and information to facilitate the matching of their needs.

312. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their generous contributions to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, which had played an important role in the secretariat's efforts in promoting TCDC operational activities in the region.

313. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 1998 had amounted to US$ 16.39 million, representing a decrease of about 26.12 per cent over the previous year's amount of US$ 22.18 million. Of the 1998 amount, US$ 5.72 million, or 34.89 per cent, had been received from sources within the United Nations system, US$ 10.3 million, or 62.87 per cent, from bilateral donors and developing members and associate members, and US$ 0.37 million, or 2.24 per cent, from other organizations.

314. Among the bilateral donors and contributing developing members and associate members, Japan remained the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP, followed by the Netherlands. Other donors included Australia, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand and Sweden. Twenty-two developing members and associate members

had also contributed to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme, the largest being the Republic of Korea, followed by China.

315. The generous contributions of bilateral donors and developing members and associate members had enabled the secretariat to initiate the implementation of 86 technical assistance projects, with a financial outlay of US$ 6.65 million, under its programme of work. The remaining amount of US$ 3.65 million had been allotted to institutional and programme support to the three regional institutions of ESCAP, APCTT, the CGPRT Centre and SIAP, as well as the special regional project on RNAM, and the Pacific Trust Fund.

316. In addition to cash contributions, donors and developing members had provided 317 work-months of services by experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis in 1998, which had been very valuable to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme.

317. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the suggestions of the secretariat contained in paragraphs 33 and 35 of document E/ESCAP/1145. Those suggestions included (a) at least maintaining the level of extrabudgetary contributions by all donors, both developed and developing countries and areas, to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme; and (b) at least maintaining the current level of contributions and, wherever possible, increasing the minimum level of contributions to US$ 2,000 by the least developed countries and US$ 30,000 by the other developing countries to the institutional costs of the three regional institutions. The Executive Secretary also invited the Commission to consider and decide upon the recommendation of the Governing Board of APCTT on building up the agreed Endowment Fund as an interest-free loan to the Centre by providing annually, over a period of five years, US$ 5,000 from the least developed countries and US$ 20,000 from the other developing countries, in addition to the institutional support currently being provided to the Centre.

318. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries, developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions. He emphasized that enhanced contributions from donors as well as members and associate members were essential for the implementation of the large number of activities within the approved programme of work.

319. The Commission took note of the following contributions pledged for 1999.

320. ***Australia.*** The representative of Australia announced that her Government had committed itself to allocating the following amounts for specific technical cooperation activities: (a) US$ 250,000 for the ESCAP/WMO project aimed at enhancing the capacity of ASEAN countries to monitor and model transboundary smoke haze pollution; (b) US$ 100,000 for the ESCAP HRD Award, on youth empowerment (an additional sum of US$ 7,800 had also been committed which would be allocated in the event that the award winner was from the Pacific); and (c) US$ 25,000 towards the workshop on education and technology for the full participation and equality of disabled children and youth into the twenty-first century.

321. ***Bangladesh.*** The representative of Bangladesh announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	7 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c) SIAP	5 000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute US$ 20,000 to APDC.

322. ***Brunei Darussalam.*** The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP. In addition, it would contribute US$ 10,000 to APDC.

323. ***China.*** The representative of China announced that his Government would make the following contributions to the ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP cooperation projects: Y 750,000 and US$ 150,000. In addition, China would continue to make contributions in United States dollars to other relevant bodies of ESCAP. The representative of China further expressed the view that, in the implementation of cooperation projects, relevant procedures should be observed strictly with the aim of enhancing the cost-effectiveness of those projects.

324. ***France.*** The representative of France expressed concern that technical cooperation activities had been affected by the reduced regular budget resources available to ESCAP, which therefore had to depend heavily on extrabudgetary resources provided by donors. France would continue to provide the following expert services: (a) an expert on development planning for ESCAP/POC, whose services had been renewed for 1999; (b) an expert on transport, who had been replaced in January 1999; and (c) agro-economists at the CGPRT Centre, whose services had been renewed in 1999. He announced that his Government would continue its support to and cooperation with ESCAP in 1999 at the same level as in 1998 through the provision of experts and the funding of seminars. He indicated that, given the increased cost of its expert services, the total contribution for 1999 should increase by 10 per cent over the 1998 level.

325. ***India***. The representative of India announced that her Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	100 000 (in national currency)
(b)	CGPRT Centre	10 000
(c)	SIAP	15 000
(d)	RNAM	15 000

326. ***Indonesia***. The representative of Indonesia announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

(a)	APCTT	US$ 5 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	Rp 289 718 000
(c)	SIAP	US$ 30 000

In addition, Indonesia would contribute US$ 20,000 to APDC and US$ 40,000 to CCOP.

327. ***Islamic Republic of Iran***. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	20 000
(b)	SIAP	10 000
(c)	RNAM	20 000

328. ***Japan.*** The representative of Japan informed the Commission that his Government would notify the secretariat later about its contributions since they were still under consideration by the Parliament. He indicated, however, that Japan intended to maintain its position as the strongest supporter of ESCAP.

329. ***Macau***. The representative of Macau announced that her Government would contribute US$ 17,000 to SIAP and US$ 12,000 to APDC.

330. ***Malaysia.*** The representative of Malaysia announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	10 000
(b)	SIAP	10 000
(c)	Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

In addition, Malaysia would contribute US$ 46,200 and a grant of M$ 440,000 (about US$ 115,800) to APDC.

331. ***Federated States of Micronesia.*** The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia announced that her Government would make financial contributions to the Pacific Trust Fund and SIAP, details of which would be conveyed to the secretariat in due course.

332. ***Myanmar.*** The representative of Myanmar announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	2 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c)	SIAP	1 000

333. ***Nepal***. The representative of Nepal announced that, despite the fact that Nepal was a least developed country, its intended contribution for 1999 would remain the same as that for 1998.

334. ***Netherlands***. The representative of the Netherlands announced that, subject to final approval, his Government would contribute 2 million guilders (equivalent to approximately US$ 1 million) to ESCAP extrabudgetary activities in 1999. With regard to the modalities such as priority areas, priority recipients and other conditions, a new agreement, replacing the existing financial arrangements, would be proposed to the secretariat for consideration and conclusion between ESCAP and his Government. At that stage, it was expected that activities to be financed under the contributions should, as a rule, have a normative character.

335. ***Pakistan.*** The representative of Pakistan announced the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	5 000
(b)	SIAP	15 000

In addition, Pakistan would contribute US$ 33,000 to APDC and US$ 17,280 to APT.

336. ***Philippines.*** The representative of the Philippines announced that his Government would contribute US$ 10,000 to the ESCAP programme of work. The amount of the contribution to RNAM would be conveyed to the secretariat in due course.

337. ***Republic of Korea***. The representative of the Republic of Korea announced that, in addition to the continued provision of the services of eight experts to the ESCAP secretariat and one expert to the Typhoon Committee on a non-reimbursable loan basis, his Government intended to make the following contributions in 1999:

		US$
(a)	Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	360 000
(b)	APCTT	20 000
(c)	CGPRT Centre	10 000
(d)	SIAP	20 000
(e)	RNAM	10 000

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 50,000 to APDC and US$ 67,000 to CCOP.

338. ***Russian Federation.*** The representative of the Russian Federation announced his Government's intention to provide support to project activities under SPECA.

339. ***Samoa.*** The representative of Samoa announced that her Government would make financial contributions to the Pacific Trust Fund, the ESCAP programme of work for TCDC activities and for the work of SIAP. The details would be conveyed to the secretariat in due course.

340. ***Sri Lanka.*** The representative of Sri Lanka announced that his Government's intended contributions for 1999 would be at the same level as that for 1998.

341. ***Thailand.*** The representative of Thailand announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	15 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	30 000
(c)	SIAP	20 000
(d)	RNAM	15 000
(e)	Pacific Trust Fund	1 000
(f)	Trust fund for the economies in transition	2 000

In addition, Thailand would contribute US$ 44,000 to APDC, US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee and US$ 40,000 to CCOP.

342. ***Viet Nam*** The representative of Viet Nam announced that his Government would maintain the level of its intended contributions in 1999 at the same level as in previous years, which included US$ 5,000 for the ESCAP programme of work, US$ 4,000 for APCTT and US$ 2,990 for RNAM.

343. In announcing their intended contributions for 1999, several delegations emphasized that their contributions had to be scaled down owing mainly to the economic and financial crisis in their countries. They reaffirmed, however, that their governments attached great importance to the technical assistance activities of ESCAP and its regional institutions, and pledged to continue their support and cooperation.

344. The total pledges of contributions to ESCAP for 1999 made by 19 members and associate members amounted to approximately US$ 3.98 million, comprising US$ 2.58 million in cash and an estimated US$ 1.4 million in kind. Those amounts did not include contributions announced for APDC, CCOP and the Typhoon Committee.

345. The Commission noted that the total pledges did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged.

346. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to members, associate members and donor countries for the intended contributions announced at the current session. Such pledges symbolized their commitment to and support of the goals and priorities of ESCAP. He reiterated the determination of the secretariat to make the most cost-effective use of those contributions for the benefit of the developing members and associate members, in particular the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries as well as the economies in transition, through ESCAP technical cooperation programmes.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

347. The Commission had before it the annual report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre for 1998, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1146).

348. The Director of APDC reported that 1998 marked the last year of the Centre's sixth four-year work programme, 1995-1998. In 1998, the Centre had experienced extreme financial difficulties as a result of the Asian financial crisis. Although the contributions of member countries had dropped to a precarious level, thus threatening the very survival of the Centre, APDC continued to implement major programmes and projects for its members. Those included the Project ENSIGN Consultative Meeting, held at Ahmedabad, India; the Regional Consultation on the Role of Non-governmental Organizations in the Implementation of Strategies for Sustainable Development for Women, held in Fiji; the Roundtable Discussion on the Economic, Social and Political Impacts of the South-East Asian Financial Crisis, held at Kuala Lumpur; the South-East Asian Regional Policy Dialogue on Women's Health, held at Kuala Lumpur; the Workshop on the Women's Management Information System, held at Vientiane;

the Training Workshop on Designing Sustainable Microfinance Technology, held at Hanoi; and the Associated Session of Microfinance Practitioners in Asia-Pacific, held in conjunction with the Microcredit Summit in New York.

349. The Centre had also completed and disseminated a number of publications, including: *Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Livelihoods for Women; Asia-Pacific Post-Beijing Implementation Monitor; Export-led Growth Strategy for South Asia: Prospects and Challenges; Executive Summary: Regional Consultation on Refugee Women and Women in Situations of Armed Conflict;* and *Subregional Consultation for Indochina and Mongolia on Post-Beijing Implementation and Monitoring*.

350. For 1998, the Centre had posted a smaller surplus of US$ 96,569, while the total operating fund had decreased by 17.5 per cent. Japan continued to be the largest financial contributor to APDC. The funds pledged by all members in 1998 had totalled only US$ 623,435, as compared with US$ 818,512 in 1997.

351. The Director expressed gratitude for the continued support provided by member countries and other bodies. He urged members to have more meaningful dialogue and cooperation among themselves. He also urged member countries to study and offer comments on the project portfolios prepared at the end of 1998.

352. A number of representatives commented favourably on the work of APDC and pledged their continued support.

Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

353. The Commission had before it the report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1147).

354. The Commission noted with appreciation that during the past year CCOP had continued to make significant progress in development of the human resources and technology of its member countries in the four main sectors, energy, minerals, the coastal zones and geohazards, and that a total of 20 technical activities had been successfully completed. In the energy sector, projects related to resource evaluation and planning, petroleum policy and management, geological correlation and studies related to Pre-Tertiary geology, as well as the safety and environmental aspects of exploitation of hydrocarbons, had been undertaken. In the mineral sector, the training activities mainly focused on digital compilation of geological maps and application of satellite image analysis in mineral exploration. The coastal zone sector focused on the case studies related to COASTPLAN, including the delta theme in China, land use in Indonesia and geohazards in Papua New Guinea.

355. The Commission noted the strong commitment of member countries of CCOP and the continued support of cooperating countries and relevant organizations. It was also pleased to note the continued cooperation of CCOP with ESCAP in exchanging geoscientific information and undertaking joint activities under the work programme so as to avoid duplication of effort and to use the available resources effectively.

356. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance extended by Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and the relevant cooperating organizations to the programme areas concerning coastal zone and energy management, and the development of mineral resources and geohazard mitigation. It urged that such assistance and support should continue.

Mekong River Commission

357. The Commission had before it the report of the Mekong River Commission, which was transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1148) and presented by the Officer-in-Charge of the MRC Secretariat.

358. The Commission noted with appreciation the important progress made in 1998 in the implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement that had established the Mekong River Commission, particularly the participatory process in which MRC had undertaken to develop systematically the Strategic Plan, including the elaboration of the MRC vision and mission statements together with goals and key result areas. The Commission also noted with interest major developments related to the implementation of the MRC Water Utilization Programme, preparation for the Basin Development Plan, formulation of environmental policy and environmental impact assessment methodology, preparation of the Agriculture and Irrigation Programme and formulation of the Gender Strategy and the Hydropower Development Strategy. In 1998, there had been 37 ongoing projects, including 12 partially funded or operational, and more than 900 officials from the riparian countries had participated in training and capacity-building activities under those projects. In addition, the Commission was informed of the continuation of the dialogues between MRC and the two upper riparian countries towards further strengthening cooperation and the regular MRC consultation with the donors. Active and continued cooperation in 1998 was noted between MRC and other major river basin organizations, including the Murray-Darling River Basin Commission and related agencies working in the Niger and Nile River Basins.

359. The Commission was also informed that the Mekong work programme for 1999 focused primarily on 10 priority programmes classified in four key result areas: natural resources planning and development; environmental management and social considerations; database and information systems; and organization management and cooperation. The Commission was informed that in 1999 MRC would continue its emphasis on capacity-building activities to strengthen the capacity of MRC.

360. The Commission noted with satisfaction the smooth relocation of MRC headquarters to Phnom Penh in August 1998. In that connection, it noted with appreciation that the Government of Thailand had been hosting the Mekong Secretariat for several decades, and that generous support was being provided to MRC by its member countries, by UNDP, donor countries and others. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of Cambodia for hosting the Mekong Secretariat.

Typhoon Committee

361. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1149), which was introduced by the representative of the Committee. It noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Committee in 1998, including important work undertaken on the meteorological and hydrological components, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research.

362. The Commission noted the support provided by the ESCAP secretariat to various activities of the Typhoon Committee, especially those related to the hydrological and disaster preparedness components of its work. It also noted the continuing valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Committee over the years.

363. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Committee for its significant work and for the excellent cooperation among its members in taking increased disaster reduction and preparedness measures against disasters through the monitoring, forecasting and dissemination of information on typhoons and hydrological hazards. It also noted that the Typhoon Committee was beginning to assign Asian names to the tropical cyclones in order to attract more public attention.

364. The Commission took note of the valuable contributions of Japan to the work of the Committee and its continuous support, especially the forecasting services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in Tokyo. It noted with appreciation the support provided to the Committee by the Philippines, in hosting the Typhoon Committee Secretariat for nearly three decades and providing the services of a coordinator, a meteorologist and support staff. The Commission also noted with appreciation that the Republic of Korea was providing a hydrologist to the Secretariat.

365. The Commission also noted with appreciation that China would be hosting a regional workshop on Doppler radar in 1999 and an international training course on long-range weather forecasting in September/October 1999. The representative of Pakistan indicated the keen interest of his country in participating in those activities.

366. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of India of cooperation through its specialized centres on forecasting, disaster reduction, damage assessment and others for the benefit of the countries of the region needing such assistance.

367. The Commission urged UNDP and other donors to provide support for the work of the Typhoon Committee and also urged the ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide substantive support to the Committee within the framework of its own programme of work.

368. The Commission expressed deep appreciation to the Republic of Korea for offering to host the thirty-second session of the Typhoon Committee at Seoul, in the latter part of 1999.

369. It noted the requests by various countries for an increased number of activities on various aspects of water resources development and management, and for continuation of the provision of advisory services in that field.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Review of reform measures undertaken at ESCAP in pursuance of Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997

370. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1151 and Add.1, containing the report of ACPR, and E/ESCAP/1152, containing a review of reform measures undertaken at ESCAP in pursuance of Commission resolution 53/1.

371. The report of ACPR was presented by the representative of the United Kingdom as the rapporteur. During the one-year period following the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, ACPR had held 10 regular sessions and 5 sessions of the Informal Working Group that had been established to assist in the preparatory work for the current session by deliberating on draft resolutions and the theme topic for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission. The rapporteur summarized the work of the Committee and emphasized the advisory services provided in respect of the work of the secretariat. He drew attention particularly to the recommendations brought to the Commission for action.

372. The Commission appreciated the work undertaken by ACPR and recognized that it provided a permanent functioning forum for regular consultation and dialogue between the secretariat and members and associate members of the Commission. It had performed an important role in reviewing, among other matters, the conference structure and the programme of work of the secretariat, and in assisting with the work of the subsidiary bodies and preparations for ministerial conferences.

373. The Commission adopted the proposed recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/1151/Add.1: (a) to improve the mechanism within the secretariat for appraising the timely and full implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission, to review the existing mandates with a view to ascertaining their continuing relevance and to report regularly to ACPR and the Commission on the benefits and performance appraisals of the activities undertaken; (b) to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat to review, on a continuous basis, the effectiveness of the activities of ESCAP; (c) to explore ways and means to improve the visibility of the work and activities of the Commission, by disseminating the results and benefits through all available means, including better use of the media, and in a clear and more concise manner; and (d) to further strengthen cooperation with other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, and other regional and subregional organizations active in the Asian and Pacific region, in order to enhance the impact of each other's activities.

374. The Commission expressed concern at the high vacancy rates within the secretariat. It observed that high vacancy rates could affect the implementation and quality of performance of the work programmes. While noting that certain measures had been taken by the secretariat, the Commission underscored the need for better planning, particularly in cases of anticipated vacancies through retirement. It urged the Executive Secretary to expedite measures to rectify the situation.

375. While the Commission did not consider the list of recommendations exhaustive, it held the view that, along with the opinions expressed by the delegations, it represented an excellent start for discussion on future reform. It felt that, with declining resources, more transparency was required with regard to the benefits of the activities so that the understanding of member States, in particular donors, would be improved. It was also essential for activities to reflect the needs of the countries in the region. The Commission observed that UNDP used to be the single largest donor to ESCAP but that, since 1997, it had not made any new commitment to fund activities in the secretariat. It urged the secretariat to strengthen collaboration with other funding bodies.

376. The Executive Secretary introduced the review of reform measures undertaken at ESCAP in pursuance of Commission resolution 53/1 and drew attention to the proposal to reconstitute the Open-ended Informal Working Group of ACPR to define priorities for the programme of work and make recommendations on the strategic directions for its future activities. He also drew the attention of the Commission to the need, for budgetary purposes, to have a mandate for the in-session panel discussion. In accordance with the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, he proposed that the Chairperson of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission be formally authorized to transmit to the President of the Council a report on the outcome of the regional coordination meeting to be chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, following its consideration by ACPR.

377. The Commission welcomed the measures taken so far regarding the reform of the secretariat structure to bring it in line with the revised conference structure. It also observed that attention should be paid to future action with regard to reform. The Commission stressed that it was important to consider the reform measures as ongoing and that they should be pursued more vigorously to ensure that the work of the secretariat was responsive to the needs of the member States, particularly the least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries and landlocked countries, and economies in transition. The Commission proposed that the results of reviews of the implementation of activities, based on information provided by members and associate members in line with appropriate performance indicators, could be disseminated through the ESCAP Web page. It was felt that RICAP could play a more prominent role in defining the role of the respective bodies.

378. The Commission recognized that the "ownership" of ESCAP lay with its members. That meant that it was the responsibility of members both to guide its future direction and priorities and to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

379. The Commission supported the proposal to reconvene the Open-ended Informal Working Group to assist with the work of ACPR in defining the priorities for the programme of work and providing advice on the strategic directions for the future activities of the secretariat. It was recognized that the four recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/1151/Add.1 should form the starting point of the work of the Group, but that its mandate should include all subjects related to reform, including the fine-tuning of previous reforms.

380. The Commission was in favour of continuing the informal panel discussion during the ministerial segment, and the necessary resources should be

allocated from the regular budget of ESCAP for that purpose. There was a suggestion that further discussion was needed regarding the timing of that activity, keeping in view the need to accord due priority to the statements by heads of delegations during the ministerial segment.

381. As the regional coordination meeting would be held after the conclusion of the current session, the Commission agreed to authorize the Chairperson to forward the report to the Economic and Social Council, as long as ACPR was given sufficient time to consider it.

382. It was proposed that regular reporting be made to ACPR on SPECA, with detailed information on the collaboration between ESCAP and ECE. It was also proposed that cooperation should be established with Black Sea Economic Cooperation. Further cooperation should be intensified with SAARC.

383. The secretariat was urged to enhance the coordination within the secretariat as well as to improve the provision of information on ESCAP opportunities and capacity to respond to the needs of members and associate members.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

384. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1153 and Add.1. It decided that its fifty-sixth session would be held at Bangkok in April 2000. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the member governments and the Chairperson, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

385. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-sixth session would be "Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis".

Adoption of the report of the Commission

386. The present report was adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the eleventh meeting of its fifty-fifth session on 28 April 1999.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

55/1. Sustainable development of inland water transport in the Asian and Pacific region[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 51/8 of 1 May 1995, the annex to which contained the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which inland water transport was accorded high priority,

Bearing in mind the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, which provided general policy guidance and set out requirements for improvement of the global environment,

Noting the Vienna Declaration adopted at the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment convened by the Economic Commission for Europe and held at Vienna in 1997, in which countries were urged to promote a shift in passenger and freight traffic from roads to inland waterways and other more ecologically efficient modes of transport,

Recognizing the need for national coordination in the use of water resources,

Recognizing also that inland water transport is an integral component of the overall transport system of the region and is one of the most advantageous transport modes, having the least impact on the environment, the lowest cost for domestic and international transport, enormous capacity reserves and the least energy consumption,

Recognizing further the potential of inland water transport for encouraging and supporting increased economic and social development in rural areas and alongside waterways,

Noting with satisfaction the recommendations of the Regional Policy-level Meeting on Sustainable Development of Inland Water Transport, held at Nanjing, China, in September 1998,

1. *Urges* concerned regional members and associate members:

(a) To integrate inland water transport within intermodal transport systems to provide door-to-door services for the movement of domestic and international traffic, thereby responding to market demand for convenient and competitive service while optimizing the economic, financial, environmental and social benefits that can be derived from each mode in the entire transport chain;

(b) To undertake detailed examination of the technical and administrative issues related to bringing national waterways into operation with the objective of facilitating international traffic;

(c) To accord appropriate priority to inland water transport in policy, planning and investment based on detailed analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental benefits, and to promote public awareness of such benefits, thereby encouraging a modal shift to inland water transport where appropriate;

(d) To enhance cooperation between national agencies responsible for inland water transport and water resources management for navigation purposes through coordinated national planning and the development and implementation of policies;

(e) To increase the public sector resources allocated to inland water transport to reflect the relative priority of such transport and to encourage partnerships between the public and private sectors to improve the development, management and operation of inland water transport;

(f) To encourage the following:

(i) The adoption of appropriate legislation and the creation of a regulatory environment for the protection and effective utilization of inland waterways;

(ii) Safety in navigation, taking adequate care of the year 2000 problem;

(iii) Facilitation of cargo trans-shipment between seagoing ships and inland vessels for onward distribution;

(iv) The recognition and strengthening of the role in socio-economic development of country boats and small vessels operated by the informal sector, with particular reference to poverty alleviation in rural areas;

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[1] See paragraph 226 above.

(v) The utilization of dredged materials, wherever economically advantageous and socially and environmentally acceptable, to raise and revitalize farmland, strengthen bank protection and reclaim land;

(vi) Development of statistical information systems to support policy, management and operational decision-making, taking adequate care of the year 2000 problem;

(vii) Development of tourism along inland waterways;

(g) To establish or strengthen appropriate centres and institutional capacity to undertake studies and research to identify physical and institutional bottlenecks that are hindering the efficient development and operation of inland water transport, and to promote human resources development to address those deficiencies;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist riverine members and associate members, on request, in formulating policies and strategies to foster the development of inland water transport and its integration with other transport modes, and to encourage a modal shift of cargoes to inland water transport where appropriate;

(b) To promote technological advancement of the inland water transport sector through the provision of technical assistance;

(c) To assist in increasing the awareness of policy makers and the public of the economic, social and environmental advantages of inland water transport, through the preparation and publication of informative and authentic materials for wide dissemination in the region;

(d) To promote human resources development in the inland water transport sector and experience-sharing through networking among riverine members and associate members within the ESCAP region and also with countries outside the region;

(e) To organize, in close collaboration with the public and the private sectors, an international conference-cum-exhibition on inland water transport in conjunction with the third session of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development, to be held in 2000;

(f) To report to the Commission in 2001 on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. *Requests* donor governments and agencies to support projects that promote the integration of inland water transport within intermodal transport systems and its integration into comprehensive planning for water resources management.

11th meeting
28 April 1999

55/2. Economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that the ongoing financial and economic crisis in Asia is continuing to affect adversely the economic and social development prospects of the countries of the region, causing tremendous human suffering, with the poor being affected most severely,

Recognizing also the impact of the Asian financial crisis on the global economy and, in particular, on developing countries with a limited number of primary export products,

Reaffirming the need to respond decisively to the crisis and welcoming the reforms being undertaken by the countries concerned to promote financial and economic stability,

Emphasizing the need for collective support measures to be taken at the global and regional levels, including active cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly its regional bodies and the Bretton Woods institutions,

Noting that, while globalization has offered opportunities for the economic development of many countries, it can also generate new risks of instability, requiring all countries to pursue sound economic policies, and also requiring adjustments to the international financial system to meet the challenges brought by globalization,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/180 of 18 December 1997 on global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, stressed the need for greater international cooperation, including through strengthened regional and multilateral cooperation to prevent future currency crises, which affected negatively not only developing countries but also the international financial and monetary system, and Assembly resolution 53/172 of 15 December 1998 on the financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, particularly annex III on the regional commissions,

[2] See paragraph 61 above.

Recalling also the deliberations of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, as reflected in paragraphs 53-63 and 118-125 of its annual report, on its work in response to the crisis and in which the Commission recognized the usefulness of setting up, at the regional level, mechanisms for the exchange of information and an early warning system so as to reduce the possibility of future economic and monetary turmoil and to ensure national and regional economic security and a stable financial environment for sustained development,

Noting with appreciation the steps initiated by the Executive Secretary, in close cooperation with other international agencies, to study the origins and effects of the current economic and monetary crisis in the region and to provide recommendations on those issues, including those mentioned in the report on the current economic situation in the region and policy issues presented to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session and in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1999*, which includes a study on the theme topic, "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development",

1. *Reaffirms* the position of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as the main economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary,

(a) To continue to undertake detailed analyses of the financial and economic crisis, paying particular attention to the role of financial markets, and to present options to members and associate members which they may use, as appropriate, as inputs in the formulation of their relevant national policies, with a view to ensuring the attraction of a steady inflow of private capital;

(b) To continue to study the social and economic consequences of the crisis, paying particular attention to alleviation of the suffering of disadvantaged groups;

(c) To enhance the exchange of information with regard to the policies adopted and measures undertaken by members and associate members to address the impact of the crisis;

(d) To undertake a study on possible regional mechanisms for the exchange of information and early warning systems in relation to the financial and economic situation in the countries of the region, with a focus on crisis prevention and reduction of the vulnerability of countries to economic and financial turmoil, including:

(i) Examination of related mechanisms currently in place or under consideration in various international and regional institutions;

(ii) Analysis of the content, data quality and frequency of information to be provided by member States;

(iii) Recommendations for future activities, including ways and means of making regional contributions to global monitoring and surveillance programmes of the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral entities while complementing, but not duplicating, efforts already taken by multilateral financial institutions;

(e) To pay special attention to the implications of the financial crisis for the developing countries, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the economies in transition, by providing them with appropriate advisory services and technical assistance;

(f) To cooperate with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant international and regional institutions in undertaking the analyses and studies mentioned in the present resolution;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

11th meeting
28 April 1999

55/3. Strengthening the cooperation and support of nations in the Asian and Pacific region in addressing the year 2000 problem[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the deliberations of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, at which it expressed deep concern about the predicted disruptions that the year 2000 (Y2K) problem in computers and embedded chips was likely to cause, urged all governments to make resolution of the problem a high priority, encouraged all members to share their experience in resolving the problem and asked the secretariat to facilitate such regional cooperation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 52/233 of 26 June 1998 and 53/86 of 7 December 1998 on global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/45 of 31 July 1998 on suggested guidelines for addressing the year 2000 problem of computers,

[1] See paragraph 257 above.

Recognizing that the effective operation of governments, businesses and organizations is threatened by the Y2K problem which, if not addressed effectively, may adversely affect the delivery of essential services in critical sectors of society, including power, telecommunications, finance, transport and health,

Noting that the awareness creation efforts of the secretariat, other United Nations bodies and member governments, while not resolving the problem, have helped to generate strong national Y2K remediation and response efforts,

Noting with appreciation the availability of abundant technical material on the Y2K problem, including the papers and proceedings of the workshop held jointly by the Commission and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in June 1998, and the existence of funding mechanisms such as the year 2000 grants of the World Bank,

Acknowledging that the year 2000 coordinators and their representatives from 17 economies in the Asian and Pacific region convened in Manila from 1 to 3 March 1999, at the Second Global Year 2000 Summit, to discuss national Y2K readiness and to plan cooperation on information-sharing, transborder Y2K issues, and continuity planning and response,

Underlining the need for further effective action to address the problem, given the inflexible nature of the deadline and the current state of preparedness within the region,

Emphasizing that, while coordinated efforts by governments and private, public and international organizations are required to address the Y2K problem, primary responsibility for Y2K compliance and remediation action lies with the top management of each affected organization,

Noting also that high-quality public information is a powerful tool for combating the Y2K problem,

Recognizing that the increasing interdependence of economies and the interconnected nature of computer systems call for concerted and coordinated action at the regional and global levels,

1. *Expresses appreciation* of the initiative of the Philippines in promoting international cooperation in information technology by sponsoring the Second Global Year 2000 Summit at Manila in March 1999;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to bring their countries to the highest possible level of year 2000 (Y2K) readiness, not only for their own benefit but also to minimize adverse Y2K effects on vital sectors of other countries;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members to practise open disclosure policies and enhance the sharing of information across borders with regard to Y2K readiness, best practices, lessons learned, embedded systems, and Y2K failures and successes;

4. *Appeals* to all members and associate members to forge regional and global cooperation to ensure a timely and effective response to the Y2K challenge and to work together to address the threats that the problem poses globally;

5. *Urges* all member States to expedite the remediation of their systems to guarantee the continued availability of basic infrastructure services, to use public information channels to urge the private sector to become Y2K-compliant and to disclose its readiness status, and to develop contingency plans to address the possibility of large-scale failures in the public and private sectors;

6. *Calls upon* all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society to enhance and combine their efforts to support regional and national Y2K initiatives;

7. *Calls upon* the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral organizations to review and increase their level of combined support for national and regional Y2K efforts;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission annually until the fifty-seventh session on the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered by members and associate members in addressing the Y2K problem;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to seek extrabudgetary resources:

(a) To monitor closely actual and potential sources of funding to support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular the least developed and landlocked countries, and the economies in transition, to address the Y2K problem and to facilitate the dissemination of relevant information on those funding possibilities to members and associate members;

(b) To continue to facilitate the exchange of national experience on the Y2K problem, and the sharing of information and expertise available with various members and associate members, including through the use of the Internet, before, on and beyond 1 January 2000;

(c) To collaborate fully with all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in facilitating the provision of support and technical assistance for members and associate members that find difficulty in addressing the Y2K problem;

(d) To ascertain from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, by 30 September 1999, the state of Y2K readiness in the region in their respective areas of competence.

11th meeting
28 April 1999

55/4. Towards a society for all ages: Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the annex to which contained the Proclamation on Ageing, in which the Assembly decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/141 of 21 December 1995 on the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages, in which the Assembly invited the regional commissions, within the existing mandates, to bear in mind the goals of the Year when convening regional meetings in 1998 and 1999 at which to mark the Year and formulate action plans on ageing for the twenty-first century,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 53/109 of 9 December 1998, in which the Assembly urged that the issue of older persons be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations and national socio-economic programmes and plans, as appropriate,

Recalling Commission resolution 54/5 of 22 April 1998, in which the Executive Secretary of ESCAP was requested to convene a regional meeting to formulate a plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific, to report to the Commission in 2000 on progress in the implementation of the plan of action and to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region,

Recognizing the need to enhance awareness of the complexity and the serious challenge that the rapid ageing of populations is posing to all societies in the region, to have a policy framework for the protection of older persons, to promote the contribution that they can make to society, and to integrate them into mainstream development,

Noting with appreciation the successful launching of the International Year of Older Persons in various countries in the region, the activities being undertaken to promote the theme of the Year, namely, "Towards a society for all ages", and efforts towards the establishment or strengthening of national policies for older persons,

Mindful of the necessity to integrate older women into development, to include a gender dimension in the preparations for the Year, and to strengthen the role of the family as the traditional provider of support to older persons,

1. *Endorses* the Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, adopted on 1 October 1998 by the Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Plan of Action and to continue to give full support to the implementation of relevant regional mandates and resolutions of the General Assembly concerning older persons;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members that have not yet done so to set up and strengthen national mechanisms on ageing, *inter alia*, to enable them to coordinate the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and to set specific time-bound targets on ageing and related issues, in the light of the needs and aspirations of older persons, in keeping with indigenous traditions and their milieux;

4. *Urges* members and associate members to pay attention to older persons in severe poverty and enable them to have access to basic health services in accordance with national priorities;

5. *Calls upon* all sectors of civil society, non-governmental organizations and private organizations to assist in the effective implementation of the Macau Declaration and Plan of Action and their respective national plans of action on older persons;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable role of the media in the preparations for the Year and in raising awareness of it, and encourages the media, consistent with freedom of expression, to present non-stereotyped images of older persons;

[4] See paragraph 191 above.

7. *Welcomes* the initiatives and activities relating to older persons undertaken by members and associate members, the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as other members of civil society and the media, to generate greater awareness, networking, and policy and programme development for older persons and to support regional and national efforts in observance of the Year;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide full support and assistance to members and associate members in the immediate implementation of the Plan of Action, including the provision of technical assistance, in the establishment of specific time-bound national goals, targets and policies on ageing and the coordination of regional and subregional activities;

(b) To report to the Commission in 2000 on the observance of the Year and on progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action and, on the basis of consultations with members and associate members, to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein;

(c) To report to the Commission, on a regular five-year basis, on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(d) To continue to provide support and technical assistance to members and associate members, as well as other actors, in the commemoration of the Year, bearing in mind its goals and objectives, and to consider the means of enhancing national and regional initiatives for older persons;

(e) To continue to facilitate the exchange of national experience and information and to collect, analyse and disseminate data, publications and other materials concerning older persons, including the utilization of the Internet, electronic facilities and other means, within existing and available resources.

11th meeting
28 April 1999

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2000-2001

CONTENTS

Page

Subprogrammes

1. Regional economic cooperation 49
2. Development research and policy analysis 54
3. Social development 58
4. Population and rural and urban development 64
5. Environment and natural resources development 68
6. Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development 74
7. Statistics 78

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2000-2001

Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment and subprogramme 3, Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology. The subprogramme is carried out by the Trade and Industry Division, which is headed by a division chief who is accountable to the Executive Secretary.

The overall objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen regional and subregional economic cooperation for promoting trade, investment and technology linkages and accelerating industrial development. For the biennium 2000-2001, the subprogramme will aim to (a) enhance the national capacity of developing countries to respond effectively to challenges and opportunities emerging from the global environment for trade, investment and technology flows and industrial development; (b) assist the developing countries, with particular attention to the needs of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and economies in transition, to accelerate their industrial and technological development and to promote their exports; (c) enhance regional cooperation to promote trade efficiency and electronic commerce and to facilitate access to information technology; and to (d) enhance intraregional and intersubregional flows of trade, investment and technology, *inter alia*, through the strengthening of networks of institutional support services, including regional information services. The subprogramme will be implemented through a concerted mix of research and operational activities. Based on policy analyses addressing emerging challenges and opportunities, a forum will be provided for continuing dialogue and cooperative action at the regional level. The capacity of governments to respond effectively will be enhanced through technical assistance activities promoting exchange of experiences and human resources development. The implications of globalization and liberalization for intraregional trade, investment and technology flows, as well as industrial development, will be analysed with particular focus on the more vulnerable groups of countries and taking into account the special needs of least developed countries, island developing countries and economies in transition. The needs for capacity-building of national institutions will be identified in the context of the changing regional economic development, and activities will be undertaken to strengthen the capabilities, *inter alia*, through institutional reform and networking. At the end of the biennium, the subprogramme will have sensitized policy makers in the developing countries to the emerging challenges and opportunities and assisted in identifying positive elements of common interest for future negotiations under WTO. It will have strengthened institutional and human capacity for the promotion of industrial development and diversification of exports of strategic importance to least developed countries, landlocked countries and Pacific island countries, and economies in transition; investment inflows, including through improved understanding of the importance of capital market reform; understanding and cooperation among government authorities and private sector representatives; capabilities of the countries in the region to deal with the different facets of trade facilitation and electronic commerce to enhance trade facilitation and electronic commerce; policies for strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship development, with particular emphasis on women entrepreneurs; and institutionalized cooperation through existing networks.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

1-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

1-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

1-1-103 Panel discussion on the theme topic of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (2000) (1 meeting)

(b) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-105 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

1-1-106 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(d) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:

1-1-107 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

1-1-108 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

1-1-201 Report on issues relating to trade and industry (2000, 2001)

1-1-202 Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (2001)

1-1-203 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (2000)

1-1-204 Report on development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis

(b) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-205 Report on issues related to trade and investment (2001)

1-1-206 Report on issues related to industry and technology (2001)

1-1-207 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (2001)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-208 Report on issues relating to trade and investment (2000, 2001)

1-1-209 Report on issues relating to industry and technology (2000, 2001)

(d) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:

1-1-210 Report (2000, 2001)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

1-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on issues of common concern to developing countries on future multilateral trade negotiations (2000)

1-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on exchange rate regimes and trade performance (2000)

1-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on integration of industrial activities at the regional and global levels: prospects and challenges in an era of globalization and liberalization (2000)

1-1-304 Ad hoc expert group on promotion of new forms of financing for transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technologies (2001)

1-1-305 Ad hoc expert group on emerging issues for trade facilitation and electronic commerce (2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

1-2-101 Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-102 Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-103 Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific, 10th edition (2001) (RB)

1-2-104 TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin (12 in 2000, 12 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

1-2-301 Implications of globalization of economic activities for industrial diversification and restructuring and technological development in Asian and Pacific economies: prospects and challenges in the twenty-first century (2001) (RB)

1-2-302 Study on comparative assessments of policies and measures to promote industrial complementarities and investment in selected manufacturing sectors for selected Asian and Pacific economies (2000) (RB)

1-2-303 Study on comparative assessment of and policy options for private sector development and privatization in least developed countries and economies in transition (2001) (RB)

1-2-304 Studies on implications of the emerging trade agenda for developing countries (2 in 2000, 1 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-305 Development and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, including agro and agro-allied industries (2000) (RB/XB)

1-2-306 Study on new modalities for the transfer, financing and management of environmentally sound technologies (2000) (RB)

1-2-307 Study on enhanced competitiveness of small and medium-sized industries through applications of new technology (2001) (RB)

1-2-308 Study on the promotion of new forms of technology transfer and technology partnerships within the context of TRIPS and TRIMS (2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-309 Guidebooks on trading and investing conditions (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-310 Electronic commerce initiatives of ESCAP (2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-311 Exchange rates regimes and trade performance (2000) (RB)

1-2-312 Coping with external shocks and discontinuities in trade and investment: the role of regional cooperation arrangements (2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-313 Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis (2000) (RB)

1-2-314 Study on the impact of liberalization of trade in services (2001) (RB/XB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

1-2-801 Case studies, pilot projects, guidelines and recommendations for the adoption of the trade facilitation measures and standards, best practices and business strategies for electronic commerce to enhance micro-level efficiency in the conduct of international trade (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-802 Training material/modules and information on the trade facilitation measures and electronic commerce, both in paper and electronic format, such as the use of the Internet, for human resources development and sharing of information and experience on a global scale (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-803 Manuals on using capital markets to advance privatization and on investment promotion measures (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-804 Technical information in response to requests from the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations, and dissemination of information (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-805 Training material for training of personnel involved in transfer of selected environmentally sound technologies and their applications (2000) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

1-3-001 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Trade and Industry (2000, 2001) (RB)

1-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental/international organizations, including ACU, ADB, APEC, ARC, ASEAN, ECO, Pacific Community, PECC, SAARC, South Pacific Forum, WEF and WTO, as well as non-governmental organizations (6 in 2000, 6 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO and ITC (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-004 Collaboration with regional commissions in the areas of trade, investment, industry and technology in developing interregional linkages and in promoting information exchange and cooperation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-005 Technical and substantive support to the regional and international trade facilitation and electronic commerce-related organizations such as CEFACT and AFACT (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-006 Technical and substantive support to BIMST-EC and SPECA (2000, 2001) (RB)

1-3-007 Technical and substantive support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-008 Technical, substantive and managerial support to the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

1-4-101 Advisory services on industrial investment promotion measures (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-4-102 Advisory services on institutional support for industrial diversification and promotion of complementarities (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-4-103 Advisory services on promoting agro-industrial linkages and development of small and medium-sized industries (2001) (RB/XB)

1-4-104 Advisory services on institutional capacity-building in consultancy for better application of new and environmentally sound technology (2000) (RB/XB)

1-4-105 Advisory services on the creation of a climate conducive to investment-related technology transfer to economies in transition and least developed countries (2001) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

1-4-201 Training workshops on WTO-related issues, including accession of non-WTO members (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (45 participants)

1-4-202 Regional seminar to review investment promotion measures (2001) (RB/XB) (10 participants)

1-4-203 Seminar on capacity-building in trade policy for Central Asian economies (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

1-4-204 Seminar on the role of regional cooperation arrangements in coping with external shocks and discontinuities in trade and investment (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

1-4-205 Workshops/national seminars on the strategies for promotion of exports and foreign direct investment in Indo-China under the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China (3 in 2000, 1 in 2001) (RB/XB) (160 participants)

1-4-206 Meetings of the Private Sector Advisory Group and the Networking of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Greater Mekong subregion under the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (280 participants)

1-4-207 Promotion of intraregional trade through trade fairs and seminars (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

1-4-208 Seminar on strengthening institutional capacity for commodity sector trade development (2000) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

1-4-209 Regional seminars on training of trainers in industrial project preparation and management in least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

1-4-210 Investment forum for selected countries of the ESCAP region (2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

1-4-211 Workshops on promotion of agro-technical equipment for agro-industrial linkages in disadvantaged economies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (24 participants)

1-4-212 Workshop on strengthening the partnership among governments, the private sector and NGOs for the greater application of environmentally sound technologies (2000) (RB/XB) (10 participants)

1-4-213 Seminar on enhanced competitiveness of small and medium-sized industries through applications of new technology (2000) (RB/XB) (9 participants)

1-4-214 Training of personnel involved in transfer of selected environmentally sound technologies and their applications (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

1-4-215 Training in standardization, metrology and quality control management systems for improved industrial competitiveness (2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

1-4-216 Workshops/seminars on capacity-building for the adoption of trade facilitation measures (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

1-4-217 Seminar on enhancing capacity and networking of trade-related training institutions (2000) (RB/XB) (12 participants)

1-4-218 Seminar on trade and investment information access for economies in transition (2000) (RB/XB) (16 participants)

1-4-219 Workshop on networking for trade-related research for economies in transition (2001) (RB/XB) (16 participants)

4. Field (country, subregional, regional) projects:

1-4-401 Project on capacity-building of enterprises in selected least developed countries/economies in transition to enhance their export competitiveness (including seminars, workshops and advisory services) (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 2. Development research and policy analysis

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 2, Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis and subprogramme 10, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The subprogramme is carried out by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, which are headed by a division chief and the Head of the Centre, respectively, both of whom are accountable to the Executive Secretary.

The principal objectives of the subprogramme are to increase understanding of the economic and social development situation in the region, to highlight trends and emerging problems, to draw the attention of policy makers to priority concerns and to advocate those policies which promote regional cooperation in economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific on the basis of shared experience and the growing complementarities among economies of the region. In addition to its own activities, the subprogramme monitors and coordinates the ESCAP-wide activities on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The activities under this subprogramme will focus on (a) monitoring, analysis and dissemination of recent developments in macroeconomic performance and related policies and their implications for development, particularly in the light of the Asian crisis which occurred in mid-1997; (b) strengthening and improving coordination among policy-making institutions, especially those dealing with monetary, fiscal and financial sector policies and those responsible for overall development strategies; and (c) strengthening human resource capacity in institutions responsible for macroeconomic management.

The subprogramme activities will also give priority to issues relating to least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition. Particular attention will be given to supporting the efforts of those countries at economic reform, mobilization and efficient utilization of resources, greater understanding of globalization issues, including their implications for trade and investment, problems of debt-servicing liabilities, and greater appreciation of social sector and sustainable development issues.

The objectives of the subprogramme will be addressed mainly through technical assistance encompassing advisory services, expert group meetings, workshops and training courses, with the prime objective of enhancing the development of human resources, especially developing the skills of public officials and promoting public-private sector cooperation for policy identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the identified areas as well as facilitating the sharing of experience and information among countries. For least developed countries, these issues will also be addressed in the context of the Final Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

Recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be prepared. Documentation and substantive services will be provided to the Commission, the Committees for Regional Economic Cooperation, Environment and Natural Resources Development, and on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, as well as to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

2-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

2-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

2-1-103 Informal meetings on least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001)

(b) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

2-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

2-1-105 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(d) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

2-1-106 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

2-1-107 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(e) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

2-1-108 Plenary (2000) (4 meetings)

(f) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

2-1-109 Plenary (2001) (4 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries:

2-1-201 Regional report on final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2001)

(b) Commission on Sustainable Development:

2-1-202 Report on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small island Developing States (2000) (RB/XB)

(c) Commission:

2-1-203 Reports on the current economic situation and policy issues (2000, 2001)

2-1-204 Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (2000)

2-1-205 Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries (2001)

(d) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

2-1-206 Reports on issues related to Pacific island developing countries (3 in 2000)

(e) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

2-1-207 Reports on issues related to least developed and landlocked developing countries (3 in 2001)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

2-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on development issues and policies (2000, 2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

2-2-101 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-2-102 Asia-Pacific Development Journal (biannual) (RB)

2-2-103 Development Papers (2000, 2001) (RB)

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

2-2-301 Analysis of policy responses to the social impact of the economic crisis (2000) (RB/XB)

2-2-302 Policy issues related to the interdependence of development and environment issues in the context of the promotion of sustainable development (2001) (RB/XB)

2-2-303 Globalization, liberalization and volatility: policy issues arising for the financial sector (2001) (RB/XB)

2-2-304 Economic management and institutional capacity-building in least developed and Pacific island countries (2000) (RB/XB)

2-2-305 Final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2001) (RB/XB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

2-2-501 ESCAP Virtual Conference on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Decision-making Processes (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on Development Research and Policy Analysis on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/drpad/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

9. *Special events:*

2-2-901 Launching of the annual Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

2-3-001 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECE, UNCTAD, World Bank, IMF and ADB on development issues and policies, including those relating to economies in transition (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-002 Collaboration and liaison with inter-agency committees, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region working on economic development issues, strategies and policies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-003 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-004 Collaboration with intergovernmental institutions, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP, SACEP, SPREP and the Mekong River Commission on issues concerned with integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-005 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including UNDP, UNIFEM, ILO, UNESCO, World Bank and ADB on poverty and social issues, strategies and policies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-006 Collaboration with ECA and UNCTAD on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-3-007 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and SPREP on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-3-008 Collaboration with the Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community on matters related to Pacific island developing countries (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-3-009 Collaboration with the World Bank, IMF and ADB on matters related to least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

2-4-101 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and economic reform in economies in transition (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

2-4-102 Advisory services on policy responses to the social impacts of the economic crisis (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2-4-103 Advisory services on institution-building for integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2-4-104 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in least developed and Pacific island developing countries (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2-4-105 Advisory services on promotion of sustainable development in small island developing States (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

2-4-201 National workshops on financial sector management (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

2-4-202 Regional seminar on achieving sustainable development in economies in transition: from stabilization to growth (2000) (XB) (25 participants)

2-4-203 Regional seminar on policy responses to the social impacts of the economic crisis and lessons for the future (2000) (XB) (30 participants)

2-4-204 Subregional workshops on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (100 participants)

2-4-205 National workshops on strategies for poverty alleviation policy design and implementation and evaluation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

2-4-206 Expert group meeting on the final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

2-4-207 High-level seminar on the final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

2-4-208 Workshop on economic management and institutional capacity-building in least developed and Pacific island developing countries (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

Subprogramme 3. Social development

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 5, Poverty alleviation: social development, and the component on women in development of subprogramme 6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Social Development Division, which is headed by a division chief who is accountable to the Executive Secretary.

The aim for the biennium will be to strengthen national capacity to promote social development as a means of alleviating poverty in the Asian and Pacific region. This aim will be achieved through three areas of intervention: (a) social policy and integration of disadvantaged groups; (b) human resources development; and (c) women in development. Activities will focus on strengthening the social policy and institutional framework to create an environment conducive to promoting the rights and needs of disadvantaged and socially excluded groups, especially the poor, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities. Another area of emphasis will be strengthening the capacity of social development personnel to promote the human resources development of key target groups, especially the poor and youth, through more effective planning and delivery of social services. Activities will also focus on promoting gender equality and the advancement of women through their economic and social empowerment as well as gender mainstreaming in the development process. In implementing activities, special attention will be given to the needs of the least developed and landlocked countries, and economies in transition, as well as those countries affected by the regional economic crisis.

An important component of the subprogramme will be to provide regional support to the implementation of global mandates, including the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond; and the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing. The subprogramme will also be guided by the following regional mandates: the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific; and the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

The subprogramme will coordinate the ESCAP-wide activities relating to gender issues with the aim of ensuring that a gender perspective is properly integrated into the mainstream of all areas of work of ESCAP.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

3-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

3-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

3-1-103 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

3-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(c) Intergovernmental high-level meeting on progress in the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

3-1-105 Plenary (2001) (8 meetings)

(d) Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth:

3-1-106 Plenary and working groups (2001) (16 meetings: 8 plenary and 8 working group sessions)

3-1-107 Panel discussion on HRD for youth: integrated approaches to youth health, focusing on reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

3-1-201 Reports on issues related to social development (2000, 2001)

3-1-202 Report of the senior officials meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2000)

3-1-203 Report on the outcome of the high-level intergovernmental meeting to review regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000)

3-1-204 Report on the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and progress in the implementation of the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (2000)

3-1-205 Report on progress in the implementation of the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (2001)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

3-1-206 Reports on issues related to social development (2000, 2001)

3-1-207 Report on the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000)

(c) Intergovernmental high-level meeting on progress in the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

3-1-208 Reports on issues relating to the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2 in 2001)

(d) Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth:

3-1-209 Report on HRD for youth: regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2001)

3-1-210 Report on HRD for youth: integrated approaches to youth health, focusing on reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

3-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region preparatory to the intergovernmental high-level meeting (2001)

3-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on disabled persons' participation in mainstream development (2000)

3-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on preparations for the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth (2001)

3-1-304 Ad hoc expert group on regional implementation of the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

3-2-101 Social Development Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

3-2-102 ESCAP Human Resources Development Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

3-2-103 WINAP Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

3-2-104 Monograph series on emerging issues on women in development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

3-2-301 Programmes for the empowerment and social integration of the poor and disadvantaged groups (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-302 Strengthening public policies for sustaining social development in times of crisis (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-303 Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific: goals and targets for 2000 and beyond (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-304 National policies and programmes on ageing and older persons in Asia and the Pacific: success cases (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-305 Pathfinders: towards full participation and equality of persons with disabilities in the ESCAP region (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-306 The state of human resources development in Asia and the Pacific: education, employment and health (2001) (RB)

3-2-307 Review of the HRD status of youth in the Asian and Pacific region (2001) (RB)

3-2-308 HRD country monograph series on the youth situation, policies and programmes (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-309 Guidelines for genderizing microcredit (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-310 National machineries for women in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):

3-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Groups on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/sps> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/decade> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Human Resources Development (HRD) on the World Wide Web <http://www.escap-hrd.org> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-504 Videotapes on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-505 Videotape on health issues concerning youth: reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-506 ESCAP Homepage on Women in Development on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/wid> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

6. Exhibits:

3-2-601 Exhibits on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-602 Exhibit on HRD for youth (2001) (RB/XB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

3-2-701 Brochures and booklets on the ESCAP HRD Award (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-702 Fact sheets on the national HRD situation in Asia and the Pacific (40 in 2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-703 Information kit for the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-704 Booklets and information materials on critical HRD issues (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

3-2-801 Development and maintenance of the ESCAP database on national action for implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-802 Development of an ESCAP database on a regional network of social development management information systems (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-803 HRD training modules for poverty alleviation: focus on education and skills development, employment-creation and health promotion (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-804 HRD training modules for youth participation in development: focus on income-generation and entrepreneurship development (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-805 HRD training modules for social and health development of sexually abused and exploited children and youth (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-806 HRD training module on the linkage between substance abuse and sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-807 Training needs assessment of youth in countries affected by the regional economic crisis (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-808 HRD information, education and communication materials to promote awareness among youth of issues related to reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-809 Maintenance and updating of the ESCAP database on centres of excellence for HRD (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-810 ESCAP/Uppsala University HRD database on sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-811 Maintenance and updating of the ESCAP database of NGOs on women in the ESCAP region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

9. *Special events:*

3-2-901 International Day of Disabled Persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-902 Regional campaign to promote the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-903 Presentation ceremony for the ESCAP HRD Award (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

3-3-001 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on the Regional Social Development Agenda and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-002 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR, UNDCP, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO and WHO on activities and programmes for social development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-004 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs on regional programmes and activities for social development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNDCP, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, and NGOs, on regional programmes and activities in support of the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing, the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific and other mandates relating to ageing and older persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies, national institutions and NGOs on the promotion of the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-007 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and the South Pacific Forum, and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-008 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, including the Commonwealth Youth Programme, RCCAP and the Asian and Pacific Youth Councils, in regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-009 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and international and national centres of excellence in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-010 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Youth Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDCP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, in regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-011 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women (2000, 2001) (RB)

3-3-012 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, SAARC and SPC, development banks and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2000, 2001) (RB)

3-3-013 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the ACC Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

3-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and regional follow-up of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, focusing on the strengthening of national strategies for poverty alleviation (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-102 Advisory services on implementation of the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-103 Advisory services on implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-104 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-105 Advisory services on regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2000, 2001) (RB)

3-4-106 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

3-4-201 Subregional workshops on mechanisms for government, private sector and NGO collaboration in planning, implementation and evaluation of social development programmes (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (80 participants)

3-4-202 Field study-cum-regional workshop on social safety nets for the poor (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

3-4-203 Meetings on critical social issues and programmes (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-204 Regional workshop for government and NGO officials on formulation and implementation of national plans of action on ageing (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-205 Country-level training workshops for public administration personnel on the rights of disabled persons to full participation and equality in the development process (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-206 Regional training of trainers on the promotion of non-handicapping environments for persons with disabilities (2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-207 Regional training workshop on the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in mainstream gender equality initiatives (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-208 Subregional training workshop for statisticians on the full participation and equality dimensions of disability statistics (2000) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

3-4-209 Field study-cum-regional seminar on poverty alleviation among rural persons with disabilities (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

3-4-210 ESCAP subregional/national HRD courses for poverty alleviation: focus on education and skills development, employment-creation and health promotion (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-211 ESCAP subregional/national HRD courses for social and health development of sexually abused and exploited children and youth (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-212 ESCAP national HRD courses for youth development in least developed countries and economies in transition, and countries affected by the economic crisis (4 in 2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-213 ESCAP regional/national HRD seminars on integrated approaches to youth health: focus on reproductive health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-214 Regional meetings on critical HRD issues (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-215 Regional seminar on empowerment of women through poverty alleviation, improved access to productive resources and greater participation in the development process (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-216 Regional seminar on emerging issues and innovative approaches in advancing the status of women in a rapidly globalizing world economy (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-217 Regional seminar on the implementation of the Bangkok Accord and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-218 Training workshop on promoting women's networking in modern information technology (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-219 Training workshop on the promotion of women in business through entrepreneurship and skills development (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-220 Meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3. *Fellowships:*

3-4-301 ESCAP HRD Award (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 4. Population and rural and urban development

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 7, Poverty alleviation: population and development, and the components of rural development and urban development of subprogramme 6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division, which is headed by a division chief who is accountable to the Executive Secretary.

The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the technical, managerial and organizational capacity of government agencies and civil society organizations at all levels to formulate population, rural and urban development policies and programmes designed to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life.

During the biennium 2000-2001, the subprogramme will pursue these objectives through the organization of training workshops on reproductive health and population and development. Technical assistance will be provided to countries, upon request, in the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In preparation for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, scheduled for 2002, two preparatory meetings will be organized. Population information will be disseminated to policy makers and programme managers throughout the region by the publication of technical reports, a journal and newsletters and by electronic means. Information networks will be maintained and government and non-governmental organization staff in information technology will be trained. The subprogramme will aim to strengthen the capacity of government and NGOs to reduce rural poverty, enhance food security and sustainable agricultural development through normative research, advisory services, training, information dissemination and exchange of experience in cooperation with other international organizations. To follow up the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), a high-level meeting, regional and local forums and seminars will be organized to enhance the capacity of and dialogue between local and national governments, and civic groups. In addition, the subprogramme will promote the dissemination of information on relevant experience through Web sites, in order to strengthen the capacity of government, local authorities, NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions and other networks to address priority issues in shelter and service provision to the Asian and Pacific region.

As a result of these activities, policy makers, programme managers, academics and educators will have gained knowledge concerning population and sustainable development linkages, rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development and shelter and urban issues, and will have improved the technical skills needed for implementing that knowledge.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. *Substantive servicing of meetings:*

(a) Commission:

4-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

4-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

4-1-103 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

4-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

4-1-201 Reports of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas (2000, 2001)

4-1-202 Reports on issues related to population and rural and urban development (2 in 2000, 3 in 2001)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

4-1-203 Reports on issues related to population and development (2000, 2001)

4-1-204 Report on issues related to rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development (2000)

4-1-205 Reports on issues related to urban development, including urban poverty (2000, 2001)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

4-1-301 Ad hoc expert group meeting on population database development (2000)

4-1-302 Ad hoc expert group meeting in preparation for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

4-2-101 Asia-Pacific Population Journal (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

4-2-102 Population Headliners (6 in 2000, 6 in 2001) (XB)

4-2-103 Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

4-2-104 Agro-Chemical News in Brief (5 in 2000, 5 in 2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-105 Compendium of United Nations work programmes on rural poverty alleviation, 2000-2001 (2000) (RB)

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

4-2-301 Study on population and development (2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-302 Study on migration and urbanization (2001) (XB)

4-2-303 Study on adolescent reproductive health (2001) (XB)

4-2-304 Manual for creating population directory databases (2000) (RB/XB)

4-2-305 Country profile on plant nutrient sector development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-306 Strengthening income-generating opportunities for rural women in selected Central Asian republics (2000) (RB/XB)

4-2-307 Rural employment promotion (2000) (RB/XB)

4-2-308 Overview of housing rights in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

4-2-501 ESCAP Population Homepage, including population databases and full text of the Asia-Pacific Population Journal articles, on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/pop/> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-502 Training modules on population information technology on CD-ROM (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Rural Development on the World Wide Web <http://www.fadinap.org> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-504 ESCAP Homepage on Human Settlements on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/huset/index.html> (triannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

4-2-701 ESCAP population data sheet (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-2-702 Pamphlets for population information products (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

4-2-801 Population directory database series (annual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-802 Database on family planning/reproductive health and population law (annual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-803 Database on reproductive health indicators (annual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-804 Updating of the databases on projects and experts in human settlements development at the joint ESCAP/AIT human settlements Web site, maintained by AIT (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-2-805 Development of an Asia-Pacific urban observatory in the form of a database for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and regional levels (2000, 2001) (XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

4-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies, funds, programmes and agencies on matters related to population and development (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-002 Collaboration with NGOs on matters related to population and development (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-003 Collaboration with national, regional and interregional bodies outside the United Nations system on matters related to population and development (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-004 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-3-005 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-006 Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, including CIRDAP, and NGOs on matters related to agriculture and rural development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-3-007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development, on matters related to agriculture and rural development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-3-008 Technical and substantive support to the CGPRT Centre (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-3-009 Organization of the RICAP Subcommittee on Urbanization (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-3-010 Coordination of programme activities with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNCHS, in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-011 Technical and substantive support to regional networks in the field of human settlements development, including ACHR, CITYNET, CIVICNET, IULA-ASPAC, Network of Local Government Training Institutes, and TRISHNET (5 in 2000, 5 in 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

4-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-4-102 Advisory services on adolescent reproductive health (3 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

4-4-103 Advisory services on population information systems/services development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-4-104 Advisory services on demographic analysis (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-4-105 Advisory services on information management on agro-chemicals (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-4-106 Advisory services on review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization at national and local levels (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

4-4-201 Pre-Conference seminar on migration and development (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-202 Workshop on population and development (2001) (XB) (20 participants)

4-4-203 Regional training workshop on adolescent reproductive health (2000, 2001) (XB) (30 participants)

4-4-204 Human resources development to improve access to and dissemination of population information through the use of information technologies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

4-4-205 Workshop on Web publishing and population information dissemination (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-206 POPIN/NGO cooperation for population information activities: information needs assessment workshop (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-207 Training workshop on information technology as a tool for training: training workshop for trainers (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-208 Workshop on population information repackaging (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-209 Regional seminar on the Integrated Plant Nutrition System concept implementation (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-210 Regional seminar on policies and programmes on rural poverty alleviation (2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

4-4-211 Regional seminar on sustainable agricultural development strategies for Asia and the Pacific (2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

4-4-212 Regional seminar on the impact of the Asian economic crisis on rural poverty alleviation (2000) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

4-4-213 Seminar on a regional network for integrated pest management and green farming (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-214 Regional workshop on Internet-based networking for sustainable fertilizer information management in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-215 Subregional seminar on strategies to enhance rural employment (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-216 Policy seminar on curbing rampant speculation in land and property markets and ensuring equitable access to land and property markets (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-217 Workshop on privatization of urban infrastructure and service delivery and its impacts on the urban poor (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-218 Regional workshop on the promotion of civic engagement in urban management (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-219 Workshop on capacity-building of local government training institutes (2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

4-4-220 Policy seminar on strengthening women's participation in local government (Women Mayors' Summit) (2000) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

4-4-221 Regional policy seminar on urban challenges to local governments in a globalizing world (2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

Subprogramme 5. Environment and natural resources development

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 4, Environment and sustainable development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division, which is headed by a division chief who is accountable to the Executive Secretary. The overall goal of this subprogramme is to strengthen national capacity in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997.

The focus of the subprogramme is on supporting the efforts of member and associate member governments in the formulation and implementation of policies which integrate environmental considerations into overall social and economic development plans, as well as in specific sectors such as energy resources, water resources, mineral resources, marine resources and land-use and urban planning. At the national level, this entails improving regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks; medium- and long-term integrated planning and strategy development; the use of economic instruments for sustainable consumption and production patterns; and general awareness-raising and educational activities relating to sustainable development. The main thrust of the work is on human resources development through technical assistance and training activities. In addition to the need to strengthen human resources, a major constraint faced by the developing countries of the region is the lack of financial resources for the implementation of sustainable development policies and strategies. To address this issue, the work of the subprogramme also considers ways to involve multilateral and private sector partners for the development of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

At the subregional and regional levels, the subprogramme will continue to strengthen cooperative mechanisms to address common environmental problems. The work of the subprogramme will include building on the initiatives established under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, established at the 1994 Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, and the various networks relating to international environmental conventions, particularly those on climate change and desertification. The secretariat will continue to service the meetings and workshops of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. Furthermore, efforts will be made to strengthen cooperation with other subregional organizations in the various sectors. The achievements and activities of regional programmes and country experiences will be disseminated through publications and other modalities.

A major event to be organized during the biennium will be the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled to be held in 2000. The Conference, the fourth of its kind to be organized by ESCAP, will review the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region and highlight the most critical environmental issues faced by the countries at the start of the new century. One of the main outputs of the biennium will be the regional input to the "Earth Summit +10", scheduled to be held in 2002.

During the biennium 1998-1999, a number of countries of the region experienced some of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The biennium 2000-2001 will place greater emphasis on the strengthening of policies and capacity for better preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters, including through the RESAP three-tier network and continued support to the Typhoon Committee, the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and the Forum on Urban Geology for Asia and the Pacific. Efforts will be made to encourage national governments to improve interministerial and intraministerial coordination, to formulate integrated natural disaster mitigation plans, and to operationalize natural disaster management programmes using space technology applications.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

5-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

5-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

5-1-103 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific:

5-1-104 Plenary (2000) (12 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

5-1-201 Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development (2000)

5-1-202 Report on the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999 (2000)

5-1-203 Report on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (2001)

5-1-204 Reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (2000, 2001)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

5-1-205 Reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (2 in 2001)

5-1-206 Report on issues related to natural disaster preparedness and mitigation (2001)

5-1-207 Report on follow-up to the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999 (2001)

5-1-208 Report on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (2001)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific:

5-1-209 Reports (6 in 2000)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

5-1-301 Ad hoc expert group meeting on strategic planning towards sustainable energy future: policy options, barriers and action plans (2000)

5-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on water use efficiency and conservation (2000)

5-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on space technology applications on the Minimum Common Programme (2000)

4. Assistance to intergovernmental bodies under their established mandates:

5-1-401 Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme (2000, 2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

5-2-101 ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment Newsletter (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-102 ESCAP Energy News (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-103 Energy Resources Development Series (sustainable energy future: policy options, barriers and action plans) (2001) (RB)

5-2-104 Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1997 and 1998 (2000) (RB)

5-2-105 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region (2001) (RB)

5-2-106 Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-107 Atlas of Urban Geology Series (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-108 Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region (2000) (RB)

5-2-109 Water Resources Journal (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-110 Confluence (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-111 Water Resources Series (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-112 Space Technology Applications Newsletter (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-113 Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal (2000, 2001) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

5-2-301 State of the environment in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (2000) (RB/XB)

5-2-302 Guidebook on pollution control in coal-fired power plants (2000) (RB/XB)

5-2-303 Environmental challenges into the twenty-first century (2001) (RB)

5-2-304 Asia-Pacific input to "Earth Summit +10" (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-305 Sustainable development indicators (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-306 Financing of energy efficiency projects in the Asian and Pacific region (2000) (RB/XB)

5-2-307 Guidebook for the promotion of sustainable energy consumption (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-308 Assessment of water resources and water demand by user sectors (2001) (RB)

5-2-309 Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999 (2000) (RB)

5-2-310 Study on a policy framework relating to technology fusion and convergence on the information superhighway (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-311 Studies on space technology applications for sustainable development and natural resources management (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

5-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Environment on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/enrd/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on Energy on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/enrd/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

5-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Water and Mineral Resources on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/enrd/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

5-2-504 ESCAP Homepage on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/enrd/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

6. *Exhibits:*

5-2-601 Exhibits for the World Water Day (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-602 Exhibits for the International Disaster Reduction Day (2000, 2001) (RB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

5-2-701 Pamphlets for the World Water Day (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-702 Pamphlets for the International Disaster Reduction Day (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-703 Brochure for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

5-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, NGOs, civil society groups and the private sector on the implementation of the outcome of the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, BIMST-EC, ECO and SAARC; ADB and the World Bank; academic institutions, including AIT, NGOs and the private sector on matters relating to energy resources (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-3-003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, CCOP, ECO, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, the IOC Subcommission for the Western Pacific, IOMAC, Mekong River Commission, SAARC and SOPAC; NGOs, including CITYNET; and the private sector on matters relating to sustainable development of land, water and mineral resources (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-3-004 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, on matters related to space technology applications (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and UNEP, in the implementation of Agenda 21, the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, and preparations for the eighth and ninth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECE, FAO and IAEA, on matters relating to energy resources (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

5-3-007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources Development (hosting of the twenty-first session in 2000) and the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, on matters related to natural resources and natural disaster reduction (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-3-008 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, on matters related to space technology applications (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

5-3-009 Collaboration and technical substantive support for SPECA (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-3-010 Technical and substantive support for the Typhoon Committee (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-3-011 Technical and substantive support for the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-3-012 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-3-013 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Water (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-3-014 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

5-4-101 Advisory services on strategic environment planning and implementation of environment conventions (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-4-102 Advisory services in sustainable development and management of energy resources; energy efficiency policy measures in supply and demand side management; promotion of renewable energy technologies (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-4-103 Advisory services on water and mineral resources development and management, environmental geology and natural disaster reduction (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-4-104 Advisory services on space technology development and applications for environment and sustainable development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

5-4-201 Meetings/workshops on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

5-4-202 Seminars/workshops on integration of environmental considerations into economic and social decision-making, including strategic environmental planning (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

5-4-203 Regional, subregional and national meetings/workshops to promote the implementation of Agenda 21, including environmental assessment, pollution control, sustainable development indicators, and coastal environmental management (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (75 participants)

5-4-204 Seminar/workshop on regional implementation of international environmental conventions (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

5-4-205 Regional, subregional or national seminars/workshops on sustainable energy development and management; promotion of energy efficiency in industries, commercial enterprises, residential sector and/or electrical appliances; promotion of regional cooperation in the marketing of renewable energy technologies (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB) (120 participants)

5-4-206 Seminars/workshops on water and mineral resources development and management (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

5-4-207 Seminars/workshops on natural disaster reduction and environmental and urban geology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

5-4-208 Meetings of regional working groups on various space applications sectors (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB) (200 participants)

5-4-209 Meeting of the dialogue forum on harmonization of regional initiatives on space technology applications (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

5-4-210 Regional seminar on development of space technology applications for RESAP phase II (Minimum Common Programme) (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

5-4-211 Training workshops on space technology applications for natural resources management and natural disaster mitigation (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

5-4-212 TCDC arrangements in the area of environmental management (2001) (RB/XB) (4 participants)

5-4-213 TCDC arrangements to facilitate exchange of information on sustainable energy sector development and transfer of technologies for promotion of energy efficiency and enhanced use of renewable sources of energy (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (4 participants)

5-4-214 TCDC arrangements in the areas of water and mineral resources development and management, and natural disaster reduction (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (8 participants)

3. *Fellowships:*

5-4-301 Long-term fellowships on space technology applications (10 in 2000, 10 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-4-302 Medium-term fellowships on space technology applications (10 in 2000, 10 in 2001) (RB/XB)

4. *Field (country, subregional, regional) projects:*

5-4-401 Pilot projects on space technology applications for natural resources management and natural disaster mitigation (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 6. Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

Introduction

This subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 8, Transport and communications. The subprogramme is carried out by the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division, which is headed by a division chief who is accountable to the Executive Secretary.

The focus of work to be undertaken by this subprogramme will be in line with the regional action programme (phase 1) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific. Particular attention will be paid to addressing the special concerns of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the economies in transition. The subprogramme will also include gender-mainstreaming activities in transport and tourism.

The activities for the biennium are aimed at formulating and formalizing regional rail, road and inland waterway routes, and at establishing a legal basis for international traffic to move on those routes. Significant progress is expected to be achieved in the formulation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes, and in the accession status of ESCAP members and associate members to the conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992. To improve the efficiency of transport facilities, logistics and services in the region, activities will be undertaken to increase awareness of the public and private sectors of the various options available, as well to strengthen their capabilities in adopting commercially oriented policies and practices.

With a view to increasing awareness of emerging issues in transport, and to create a sound basis for participatory approaches to sustainable development of transport in the region, a wealth of data and information on transport and related issues will be made available to policy makers, and group training activities will be implemented to enhance national capacity. Assistance will also be provided to increase the knowledge base of policy makers and the public at large of environmental, health and safety issues in transport.

Assistance will be provided to member and associate member governments in strengthening national capabilities in policy formulation and planning of tourism, and to promote regional and subregional cooperation in tourism development.

For many of the subprogramme outputs, the initial focus will be senior policy makers, policy advisers and other actors who are in a position to initiate or influence the direction of policy changes. The subprogramme outputs will also be used by international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other civil society groups, as well as the private sector.

Users will be reached through participation in intergovernmental and expert group meetings and study tours; dissemination of information via technical publications, guidelines, newsletters and the Internet; networking of institutions; conduct of group training activities and provision of advisory services.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

6-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

6-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development:

6-1-103 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure:

6-1-104 Plenary (2001) (10 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

6-1-201 Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development (2000, 2001)

6-1-202 Report on implementation of Commission resolution 52/9 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges (2000)

6-1-203 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development:

6-1-204 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000)

6-1-205 Reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (4 in 2000)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure:

6-1-206 Reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (5 in 2001)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

6-1-301 Ad hoc expert group meeting on regulatory issues in the transport sector (2000)

6-1-302 Ad hoc expert group meeting on the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

6-2-101 Review of the developments in transport, communications, tourism and other infrastructure (2001) (RB)

6-2-102 Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

6-2-103 ESCAP Tourism Review (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-104 ESCAP Tourism Newsletter (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

6-2-301 Guidelines for Asian Highway promotion (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-302 Revised Asian Highway network (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-303 Restructuring of railways (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-304 Trans-Asian Railway development (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-305 Revised guidelines for environmental impact assessment in the road sector (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-306 Road safety database (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-307 Integrated transport systems (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-308 Strengthening the capabilities of regulatory bodies related to the provision of infrastructure facilities and services (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-309 Guidelines for the harmonization of navigation rules and regulations (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-310 Training materials for multimodal transport (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-311 Port pricing, investment policy and key indicators of port performance (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-312 Regional maritime strategy for containerization (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-313 Human resources development in the maritime sector (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-314 Policy issues on sustainable tourism development (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-315 Policy issues related to tourism infrastructure development, investment and facilitation of travel (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-316 HIV/AIDS and the transport industry (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-317 Guidelines on the assessment and mitigation of the impact of transport infrastructure and services on the spread of HIV/AIDS (2001) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):

6-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

6-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on the Asian Highway on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/ah.htm> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-504 ESCAP Homepage on the Trans-Asian Railway on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/tar.htm> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

6-2-801 Refining and updating of the ESCAP database on transport and infrastructure (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-802 Updating maritime information on the Internet (2001) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

6-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including World Bank, ADB, APEC, APT, ASEAN, BIMST-EC, ECO, EU, Forum Secretariat, IsDB, MRC, OSShD and SAARC in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (6 in 2000, 5 in 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-002 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including other regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNCITRAL, ILO, ICAO, ITU, IMO and UPU in implementing: (i) the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific; and (ii) the work programme of SPECA (3 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-003 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including AFFA, APAA, ASCOBIPS, the Global Infrastructure Fund, IAPH, IRCA, PIANC, IRU and the World Development Council in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-004 Collaboration with the private sector, including the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-005 Collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, PATA and other tourism-related organizations on tourism development activities (3 in 2000) (RB)

6-3-006 Participation in network of centres of excellence in urban transport planning (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-007 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

6-4-101 Advisory services on land transport development and facilitation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-102 Technical assistance on the integration of non-motorized transport into urban transport (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-103 Advisory services on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (2000) (RB/XB)

6-4-104 Advisory services on an integrated approach to transport planning (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-105 Advisory services on shipping and port development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-106 Advisory services on the development of inland water transport (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-107 Advisory services on international logistics and multimodal transport (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-108 Advisory services on strengthening national capabilities in tourism development (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-109 Advisory services on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the transport industry (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

6-4-201 Seminars/workshops on transport infrastructure development and facilitation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (80 participants)

6-4-202 Training workshops on an integrated approach to transport planning (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

6-4-203 Promotion of private sector participation in infrastructure development (2000) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-204 Country-level workshops on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (2001) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-205 International conference on inland water transport (2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

6-4-206 Country-level workshop on investment financing and planning of inland water transport (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

6-4-207 Country-level seminar on shipping policy development (2000) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-208 Subregional/national workshops on the development of multimodal transport (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

6-4-209 Regional seminar on port management and commercialization (2001) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-210 Regional seminar on tourism planning and development (2001) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-211 Regional meetings on the promotion of tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (200 participants)

6-4-212 Regional meetings on the promotion of cooperation in tourism development and training (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (100 participants)

6-4-213 Seminar related to tourism infrastructure development, investment and facilitation of travel (2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

6-4-214 TCDC arrangements on tourism development and training (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

6-4-215 Seminar/workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the transport industry (2000) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-216 Regional meeting on consultative mechanisms for key stakeholders in the maritime industry (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

Subprogramme 7. Statistics

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 9, Statistics. The subprogramme is carried out by the Statistics Division, which is headed by a division chief who is accountable to the Executive Secretary.

Consistent with the terms of reference of the Commission, the main objectives of this subprogramme are to continue to facilitate the development of sustainable national statistical capabilities in the Asian and Pacific region, to disseminate comparable social, economic and other relevant statistics on the regional members and associate members of the Commission, and to promote the effective utilization of information technology within the public sector. The main activities are: (a) to assist and provide substantive and other services to the Committee on Statistics, which plays a central role in promoting and coordinating regional statistical development; (b) to organize technical cooperation activities, including advisory services and technical seminars, and disseminate technical material with the aim of promoting skills development and sharing of experience and technical knowledge in statistics and information technology; (c) to organize workshops and training programmes in statistics and information technology, especially in association with the statistical training programmes of SIAP; (d) to prepare, review and coordinate at the regional level the development and revision of statistical standards and their eventual implementation; (e) to undertake the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information on the region, and to provide statistical support for analytical work undertaken within the secretariat; and (f) to maintain close collaboration and cooperation with relevant regional, subregional and international organizations to promote improved coordination of technical assistance in statistics.

The end-users of the outputs of this subprogramme are national statistical offices, computerization and information technology focal points, and planning, monitoring and decision-making agencies in the member and associate member governments; regional, subregional and international organizations; non-governmental organizations, national and international institutes, and scholars concerned with economic, social, demographic and environmental research and policies; and individual firms and persons. In implementing the subprogramme, the secretariat will take due account of the different stages of statistical development among countries of the region, paying particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. Greater reliance will be placed on enhanced cooperation among countries and coordination of inputs from statistically advanced countries.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

7-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

7-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

7-1-103 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

7-1-201 Report on issues related to statistics (2000)

7-1-202 Report of the Committee on Statistics (2001)

7-1-203 Reports on the progress achieved and difficulties encountered by members and associate members in addressing the Y2K problem (2000, 2001)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

7-1-204 Report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts (2000)

7-1-205 Report on selected issues in statistical development (2000)

7-1-206 Report on issues in computerization in the public sector (2000)

7-1-207 Report on an integrated presentation of work programmes on statistics in the region (2000)

7-1-208 Report on activities of the secretariat since the eleventh session of the Committee (2000)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

7-1-301 Meeting of the Working Group of Statistical Experts (2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

7-2-101 Statistical Newsletter (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

7-2-102 Government Computerization Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

7-2-103 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

7-2-104 Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (2001) (RB)

7-2-105 Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

7-2-106 Asia-Pacific in Figures (2000, 2001) (RB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):

7-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Statistics on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/stat/index.htm> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

7-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on Public Sector Computerization on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/stat/gc/pschome.htm> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

6. Exhibits:

7-2-601 Exhibit for the Committee on Statistics (2000) (RB)

7. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

7-2-701 Wall chart on general statistics (2000, 2001) (RB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

7-2-801 Data and information disseminated on electronic media (CD-ROM, diskettes etc.) (2000, 2001) (RB)

7-2-802 Operation and maintenance of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (2000, 2001) (RB)

7-2-803 Responses to ad hoc requests from outside users for statistical information (2000, 2001) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

7-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, including the East-West Center and the Pacific Community (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

7-3-002 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including the International Statistical Institute (2001) (RB)

7-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission and Working Group, regional conferences of statisticians, city groups and the FAO Asia-Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

7-3-004 Collaboration with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (2000, 2001) (RB)

7-3-005 Technical and substantive support to UNFPA Country Support Teams in the region (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB)

7-3-006 Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

7-4-101 Advisory services on analysis and dissemination of population data, and utilization of census data (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

7-4-102 Advisory services on organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services and on the development of government information systems and the efficient use of information technology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

7-4-201 Seminars on organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services and on the development of government information systems and the efficient use of information technology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (35 participants)

7-4-202 Regional workshops on various aspects of population statistics, including sampling applications (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

7-4-203 Regional workshops on socio-economic and environment statistics (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

7-4-204 Regional workshops on various aspects of economic statistics (2 in 2000, 1 in 2001) (RB/XB) (75 participants)

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of activities required under the resolutions adopted at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[1]
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		Seventh session Bangkok 10-12 March 1999	E/ESCAP/1121
Chairperson:	Rathi Vinay Jha (India)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Abdol Reza Ghofrani (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Charan Plangtrakul (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	In May (Cambodia)		
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development		First session Bangkok 21-23 October 1998	E/ESCAP/1126
Chairperson:	Vishwanath Anand (India)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Jin Xiaoming (China)		
	Surna Tjahja Djajadiningrat (Indonesia)		
	Suphavit Piamphongsant (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	Mahshid Agir (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas		First session Bangkok 15-17 September 1998	E/ESCAP/1129
Chairperson:	P.L. Sanjeev Reddy (India)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Wang Guoliang (China)		
	Seyedjafar Sajadieh (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Rapporteur:	Jack Chawanin (Papua New Guinea)		

[1] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[1]
Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development		First session Bangkok 18-20 November 1998	E/ESCAP/1135
Chairperson:	R. Vasudevan (India)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Chaiyos Chaimankong (Thailand)		
	Kathan Marimuttu (Sri Lanka)		
	Fazllolah Maysami (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Henry Saiyo Parakei (Papua New Guinea)		
Rapporteur:	Hans de Jong (Netherlands)		
Committee on Statistics		Eleventh session Bangkok 24-26 November 1998	E/ESCAP/1138
Chairperson:	Frederick W.H. Ho (Hong Kong, China)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mashfee Binte Shams (Bangladesh)		
	Timoci Bainimarama (Fiji)		
	M.D. Asthana (India)		
	Ch. Davaasuren (Mongolia)		
	Paul Cheung (Singapore)		
Rapporteur:	Alejandrino A. Vicente (Philippines)		
Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries		Fourth session 20-21 April 1999 Bangkok	E/ESCAP/1140
Chairperson:	Donald Kudu (Solomon Islands)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Suhel Ahmed Choudhury (Bangladesh)		
	Bountheuang Mounlasy (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
Rapporteur:	Noumea Simi (Samoa)		

Annex IV

SALES PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
A Demographic Perspective on Women in Development in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam	E.98.II.F.53
Asia-Pacific Development Journal	
Vol. 5, No. 1, June 1998	E.99.II.F.2
Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1998	E.99.II.F.30
Development Papers	
No. 19, *Foreign Direct Investment in Selected Asian Countries: Policies, Related Institution-building and Regional Cooperation*	E.98.II.F.62
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1998	E.98.II.F.59
Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1992-1996	E/F.99.II.F.9
Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region: Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, Manila, 5-11 November 1997	E.98.II.F.71
Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 30	E.98.II.F.58
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, March 1998	E.98.II.F.50
Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, June 1998	E.98.II.F.68
Vol. XXVIII, No. 3, September 1998	E.98.II.F.76
Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, December 1998	E.98.II.F.78
Statistical Profiles	
No. 14, *Women in Indonesia - A Country Profile*	E.98.II.F.63
No. 15, *Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran - A Country Profile*	E.98.II.F.64
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1997	E/F.98.II.F.1
Towards Efficient Water Use in Urban Areas in Asia and the Pacific	E.98.II.F.60
Towards Sustainable Minerals Supply in the Asian and Pacific Region: Review of Emerging Mineral Policies and Development Activities (Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series vol. 3)	E.98.II.F.27

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/L.139	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/L.140 and Corr.1	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/1118	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission to change the name of Macau to "Macau, China"	4
E/ESCAP/1119 and Corr.1	Report on the current economic situation in the region and policy issues	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/1120	Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development: summary	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/1121	Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its seventh session	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1122	Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: trade and investment	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1123	Implications of the Asian economic crisis for sustained industrial and technological development in the region	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1124	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1125	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1126	Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its first session	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1127 and Corr.1	Emerging issues and developments related to natural and man-made disasters	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1128	Emerging issues and developments related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources: the impact of the economic crisis on the energy sector	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1129	Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its first session	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1130	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1131	Report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1132 and Corr.1	Report of the Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, Macau, 28 September to 1 October 1998	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1133	Empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific	6 (c)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/1134	Report of the Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth (in preparation for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998), Bangkok, 1-5 June 1998	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1135	Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its first session	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1136	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and major decisions of the Commission in transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1137	Draft plan of action for sustainable tourism development in the Asian and Pacific region	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1138	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its eleventh session	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/1139	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/1140	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its fourth session	6 (f)
E/ESCAP/1141	Implementation of the programme of work, 1998-1999	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1142 and Corr.1	Proposed programme changes for 1999	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1143 and Corr.1	Proposed programme of work, 2000-2001	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1144	Programme planning: tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 1999-March 2000	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1145	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	8
E/ESCAP/1146	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	9
E/ESCAP/1147	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	9
E/ESCAP/1148	Report of the Mekong River Commission	9
E/ESCAP/1149	Report of the Typhoon Committee	9
E/ESCAP/1151 and Add.1	Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	10
E/ESCAP/1152	Review of reform measures undertaken at ESCAP in pursuance of Commission resolution 53/1	10
E/ESCAP/1153 and Add.1	Suggested theme topics for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/1154	Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	6 (b)

Annex V

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 1998

A. List of publications

Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

Food Processing and the Environment (ST/ESCAP/1881)

How to do Business in Kazakhstan (ST/ESCAP/1919)

Studies in Trade and Investment: 31. *Electronic Commerce Initiatives of ESCAP: Business Facilitation Needs* (ST/ESCAP/1854); 32. *Assistance to Economies in Transition in Export Promotion* (ST/ESCAP/1808); 33. *Implications of the APEC Process for Intraregional Trade and Investment Flows* (ST/ESCAP/1886); 34. *Enhancement of Trade and Investment Cooperation in South-East Asia: Opportunities and Challenges Towards ASEAN-10 and Beyond* (ST/ESCAP/1882)

TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin, Nos. 1-12

Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 5, No. 1, June 1998 (ST/ESCAP/1898)

Development Papers, No. 19. *Foreign Direct Investment in Selected Asian Countries: Policies, Related Institution-building and Regional Cooperation* (ST/ESCAP/1809)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1998 (ST/ESCAP/1844)

Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology

Implications of TRIMs and TRIPs for the Promotion of Technology and Related Capital Flows (ST/ESCAP/1846)

Private Sector Development and Privatization in the Industrial Sector in Selected Central Asian Economies in Transition (ST/ESCAP/1802)

Rural Industrialization and Introduction of Science and Technology into the Rural Areas (ST/ESCAP/1611)

Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 30 (ST/ESCAP/SER.M/47)

The Role of the Private Sector and Privatization for Industrial and Technological Development in South Asian Economies (ST/ESCAP/1777)

Environment and sustainable development

Confluence, No. 31, June 1998

Emerging Policy Initiatives and Activities in Coastal Zone Management and Non-living Resources Assessment in Asia and the Pacific, vol. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1902)

GIS Standards and Standardization: A Handbook (ST/ESCAP/1856)

Harmonization of Various Initiatives for Promoting Regional Cooperation in Space Technology Development and Applications in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1888)

High-level Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Integration of Space Applications with Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 8-10 December 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1880)

Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on Satellite Communication Applications for Distance Education, Manila, 9-12 September 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1909)

Proceedings of the Seminar on Geoinformation Systems for Coastal Zone Development Planning, Colombo, 4-8 November 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1877)

Report of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development on its Fourth Session; Reports of the Meetings of the Regional Working Groups; and Summary Record of the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (ST/ESCAP/1916)

Sources and Nature of Water Quality Problems in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1875)

Space Technology Applications Newsletter, vol. 15, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 16, No. 1

Towards Efficient Water Use in Urban Areas in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1874)

Towards Sustainable Minerals Supply in the Asian and Pacific Region: Review of Emerging Mineral Policies and Development Activities, vol. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1799)

Water Resources Journal: March 1998 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/196); June 1998 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/197); September 1998 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/198)

Poverty alleviation: social development

Approaches to Community-based HIV/AIDS Prevention in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1903)

Asia and the Pacific into the Twenty-first Century: Prospects for Social Development (ST/ESCAP/1887)

ESCAP HRD Newsletter, No. 10, August 1998

Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region: Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, Manila, 5-11 November 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1895)

Social Development Newsletter, No. 38, July 1998

Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

Agro-chemicals News in Brief, vol. XXI, Nos. 1-4; Special Issue, November 1998

Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin, January-December 1998

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, vol. 8, Nos. 1 and 2

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Pakistan (ST/ESCAP/1879)

WINAP Newsletter, No. 22

Poverty alleviation: population and development

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 13, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1896); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1910); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1928); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1942)

Asian Population Studies Series, No. 147, *Population and Environment Dynamics, Poverty and Quality of Life in Countries of the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/1893); No. 148, *A Demographic Perspective on Women in Development in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1869); No. 149, *Report and Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Adolescents: Implications of Population Trends, Environment and Development* (ST/ESCAP/1873); No. 153, *Asia-Pacific Population Policies and Programmes: Future Directions - Report, Key Future Actions and Background Papers of a High-level Meeting* (ST/ESCAP/1923)

Transport and communications

Marketing the Railway Product in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1872)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1998 (ST/ESCAP/1937)

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1992-1996 (ST/ESCAP/1934)

Government Computerization Newsletter, No. 11

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1876); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1897); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1913); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1935)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 108 and 109

Statistical Profiles: No. 14, *Women in Indonesia - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1767); No. 15, *Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1768)

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1837)

B. List of meetings

Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

Workshop on Trade Policy Analysis through a Social Accounting Matrix-based Computable General Equilibrium Model, Hanoi, February

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Networking of Trade-related Training Facilities, Bangalore, India, February

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on BIMST-EC: Promoting Government-Private Sector Partnership, Bangkok, March

Consultative Group Meetings between the Project on Advisory Assistance to Industry for Export Promotion and Cooperating Organizations: Bangkok, March and October

Workshops on the Quality Improvement Programme: Vientiane, January, March and May

Working Committee Meetings on the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair ASPAT'99, Seoul: first session, Bangkok, April; second session, Seoul, November

Informal Consultation Meeting of the Bangkok Agreement, Bangkok, April

Working Committee Meeting on the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair ASPAT'98, Almaty: third session, April; fourth session, August; fifth session, October

National Workshop on Enhancing the Sustainable Development of Small and Medium-scale Enterprises in the Food Processing Sector, Tasikmalaya, Indonesia, April

Regional Seminar on the Implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services for Asian and Pacific Economies, Bangkok, May

National Workshops on Maximizing the Benefits from ASEAN on Economic Cooperation and Trade Facilitation: Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, June; Yangon, June

National Seminar on Maximizing the Benefits from ASEAN on Economic Cooperation, Vientiane, June

Seminars on Leasing and Return on Investment: Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh, June

RICAP Subcommittee on Trade and Investment, second meeting, Bangkok, June

National Workshop on Trade Facilitation, Colombo, August

Seminar on Emerging Trade and Investment Scenarios and Liberalization Agenda for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, September

Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, tenth meeting, Bangkok, September

Meetings on Enhancing Cooperation in Trade and Investment between Pacific Island Countries and Economies of East and South-East Asia: Singapore and Bangkok, September

Seminar on Enhancing the Integration of New Members into the ASEAN Process through Economic Cooperation and Trade Facilitation, Bangkok, September

ESCAP/UNCTAD Seminar on Information Sources and Management for Trade Point Managers in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, September-October

Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair ASPAT'98, Almaty, October

Seminar on How to Do Business with the Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan), Almaty, October

Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, fourth meeting, Kathmandu, October

Seminar on Import/Export Skills, Hanoi, November

Planning Meeting to Prepare for the Third Phase of the Project on Advisory Assistance to Industry for Export Promotion, Bangkok, November

Regional Seminar on Changing Perspectives in the Management of State-owned Enterprises and their Role in the Promotion of Exports, Beijing, November

Expert Group Meeting of Trade Promotion Policy Experts, Bangkok, December

Seminar on the Development of the Business Sector for the Promotion of Trade and Investment between North-East and South-East Asia through TCDC and Tripartite Cooperation, Bangkok, December

Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Subregional Expert Group Meetings on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-making Processes: for Pacific Islands, Port Vila, February; for East and South-East Asia, Manila, March-April

Expert Group Meeting on Growth with Equity, Bangkok, May

Seminar on Improved Management of the Financial Sector, Bangkok, May

High-level Seminar on Managing Capital Flows: National and International Dimensions, Bangkok, June

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-making Processes, Bangkok, July

Workshop on Institution and Human Resource Capacity-building for the New Entrants into ASEAN, Jakarta, September

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December

Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology

National Workshops on Private Sector Development and Privatization: Baku, January; Ashgabat, October

National Workshop on Private Sector Development and Investment Promotion, Vientiane, February

Private Sector Symposium, Bangkok, February

Training of Trainers on Industrial Project Preparation and Management: for Selected Pacific Island Developing Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region, Port Vila, May; for Selected Least Developed Countries and Economies in Transition of the Asian and Pacific Region, Kathmandu, September

Training Workshops on Treatment of Wastewater for Small and Medium-sized Industries: Vientiane, May; Hanoi, June

Second Meeting of the Regional Network of Boards of Investment in the Asian and Pacific Region, Goa, India, May

ESCAP/APEC Regional Workshop on Human Resources Development for the Food Industries in Asia and the Pacific, Jakarta, July

National Workshop on Private Sector Development and Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment: Lessons from Experience in ASEAN Economies, Malé, October

National Workshop on Private Sector Development, Privatization and Deregulation in Cambodia: Lessons from Experience in ASEAN Economies, Phnom Penh, October

Workshop on the Regional Cooperative Policy Mechanism to Promote the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, Bangkok, October

Governing Body of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, eighteenth session, Los Baños, Philippines, December

RICAP Subcommittee on Industry and Technology, fourth meeting, Bangkok, December

Environment and sustainable development

Fifth Demonstration and Workshop on Low Air Pollution Coal-fired Power Plant Technology, Moscow, January; Sixth Workshop, Kanagawa, Japan, March

Fourth Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Moscow, January

International Training Course for Energy Managers, phase 2, Chennai, India, January

Regional Working Group on Space Sciences and Technology Applications, third meeting, Bali, Indonesia, February

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, third meeting, Tokyo, March

Regional Meeting on Strategic Environmental Planning, Bangkok, March

RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Bangkok: ninth meeting, March; tenth meeting, October; eleventh meeting, December

Training Programme for Energy Managers, Trivandrum, India: phase 1, March; phase 2, June

Ad Hoc Meeting of Co-authors on the Compendium of Energy Conservation Legislation in Viet Nam, Hanoi, March

National Workshops on Indicators of Sustainable Development: Malé, March; Beijing, May; Manila, June; Islamabad, October

Training Course on Geographic Information Systems in Geology for Urban Planning, Bangkok, March-April

Subregional Workshop on Private Sector Involvement in Water Supply and Sanitation, New Delhi, April

National Seminars on Quality Control Circle Activities for Energy Efficiency in Industry: Moscow, April; Ulaanbaatar, September

Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, second meeting, Cebu, Philippines, May

RICAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, fourth meeting, Cebu, Philippines, May

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, fourth session, Cebu, Philippines, May

Meetings of the Principal Investigators for Advanced Earth Observation Satellite Applications: second meeting, Bangkok, May; third meeting, Manila, November

Final Review Meeting of the Regional Project on Technical Assistance for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Bangkok, May

Dialogue on Policies Concerning Harmonization of Various Initiatives for Promoting Regional Cooperation on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Ulaanbaatar, June

RICAP Subcommittee on Water, Bangkok: forty-first meeting, June; forty-second meeting, December

Regional Workshop on Public Involvement for Energy-related Projects, Bangkok, June

Forum on Regional Initiatives for Space Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, Ulaanbaatar, June

Demonstration Energy Audit-cum-Training on Energy Efficiency in the Cement Industry, Tehran, June-July

National Workshop on Energy and Environment Planning, Islamabad, July

Workshop for Brainstorming on the State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific, Ulaanbaatar, July

Practical Training Course on Efficient Energy Management in Industries: Yangon, phase 1, August; phase 2, November

On-site Seminar on Possible Improvements in Productivity and Energy Saving in Refinery Industries, Angarsk, Russian Federation, September

Workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Non-living Marine Resource Development, Bangkok, September

Regional Seminar on Satellite-based Multimedia Technology Applications for Promoting Rural Development, New Delhi, September-October

Workshop on Regional Cooperation in Flood Control and Management for Improvement of the Urban Environment in Asia and the Pacific, phase 1, Bangkok, October

Workshop on Capacity-building for Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Tehran, October

Regional Training Workshop on Development of Meteorological Disaster Databases and Applications in Disaster Management, Beijing, October

Workshop on Integrated Assessment and Development of Mineral Resources within the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, October

ECE/ESCAP Joint Seminar on the Introduction of the United Nations Framework Classification of Reserves/Resources for Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities, Bangkok, October

Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Outline of the Training Manual on Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants, Ulaanbaatar, October

Seminars on Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Pollution Control through Co-generation: for South-East Asia, Hanoi, November; for South Asia, Dhaka, November

National Workshops on Commercialization of Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Development: Kathmandu, November; Vientiane, November; Yangon, December

Expert Group Meeting to Review and Adopt the Guidelines and Manual on the Protection and Rehabilitation of Contaminated Rivers in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November

Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Manila, November

International Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Action Programme for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Asia, Bangkok, November

Typhoon Committee, thirty-first session, Quezon City, Philippines, December

Seventh Regional Seminar on Earth Observation for Tropical Ecosystem Management, Dhaka, December

Regional Workshop on Energy-environment Planning and the Impact of the Financial Crisis on the Energy Sector, Bangkok, December

Poverty alleviation: social development

Meeting of the Jury for the 1997 ESCAP HRD Award, Bangkok, January

RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns: fifteenth meeting, Bangkok, January; sixteenth meeting, Hong Kong, China, August

RICAP Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS, Bangkok: eighth meeting, March; ninth meeting, July; tenth meeting, December

Panel Discussion on the Impact of the Current Financial Crisis on Social Development and Implications for Regional Cooperation Strategies, Bangkok, April

Final Workshop of the Beijing Pilot Project on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons, Beijing, May

Regional Workshop on Preparations for the International Year of Older Persons, Beijing, May

Final Myanmar-Thailand Cross-border Meeting on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Chiang Mai, Thailand, May

Asia-Pacific Meeting of Youth Organizations in Preparation for the Third Session of the World Youth Forum, Bangkok, May

Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth (in preparation for the Lisbon World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth), Bangkok, June

Final Workshop of the New Delhi Pilot Project on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons, New Delhi, June

Regional Seminar on Community-based Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Bangkok, June

Expert Group Meeting on Training Persons with Disabilities for the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments, Pattaya, Thailand, June

Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, Macau, September-October

RICAP Task Force on the International Year of Older Persons, Bangkok: first meeting, September; second meeting, October

Regional Seminar on Poverty Alleviation through Human Resources Development, Kunming, China, October

Regional Workshop on Social Development Information Exchange through the Internet, Bangkok, November

Regional Seminar on Social Aspects of International Labour Migration in the ESCAP Region, Manila, November

Expert Group Consultation on Social Development Management Information Systems, Bangkok, November

Regional Seminar on Promoting a Society for all Ages, Bangkok, December

RICAP Subcommittee on the Regional Social Development Agenda and Follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development, Bangkok, December

Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

Workshop on the Impact of Privatization and Deregulation on Fertilizer Sector Development and Training on Fertilizer Marketing, Islamabad, March

Workshop on Plant Nutrition Concepts in Viet Nam, Hanoi, May

Regional Workshop on Internet-based Networking for Sustainable Fertilizer Information Management in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, May

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Capability-building to Alleviate Rural Poverty under Economic Adjustments, Bangkok, May

Asia-Pacific Symposium on Sustainable Food Production, Income Generation and Consumer Protection, Beijing, June

Regional Meeting on the Impact of Globalization on Women, Bangkok, June

Expert Group Meeting on Integrated Pest Management, Bangkok, September

RICAP Subcommittee on Urbanization, fourth meeting, Bangkok, November

Poverty alleviation: population and development

High-level Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and to Make Recommendations for Further Action (preceded by a meeting of the Steering Committee of the High-level Meeting), Bangkok, March

RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development, Bangkok: fourth meeting, March; fifth meeting, October

Policy Seminar on Gender Dimensions of Population and Development in South-East Asia, Bangkok, September

Regional Seminar on the Family and the Elderly, Bangkok, October

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Appropriate Information Technology for Accessing Population Information, Beijing, October

Regional Seminar on Approaches to Enhanced Government-NGO Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok, November

Training Workshop on Information Technology for Information Professionals, Beijing, November

East and South-East Asia POPIN Consultative Meeting, Beijing, November

South Asia POPIN Training/Consultative Workshop, Mumbai, India, November

Training Workshop on Improving National Capacity for Monitoring Reproductive Health Programmes, Bangkok, November-December

Transport and communications

Training Workshop on Rural Credit and Saving Schemes, Oudomxai, Lao People's Democratic Republic, February

ESCAP/OSShD (Organization of Railways Cooperation) Preparatory Meeting on the Container Transport Demonstration Project in the Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, phase I, Moscow, February

Seminar on Land Transport Facilitation for Myanmar and Thailand, Bangkok, April-May

Regional Seminar-cum-Cluster Country Meeting on Participatory Planning of Rural Infrastructure, New Delhi, May

Executive Committee of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism, Bang Saen, Thailand, June

ESCAP/World Tourism Organization Seminar on Facilitation of Travel in the Asian Region, Phuket, Thailand, July

Regional Policy-level Meeting on Sustainable Development of Inland Water Transport, Nanjing, China, September

Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Network of Maritime Transport Information and the Development of Standard Information Formats for Maritime Web Sites, Bangkok, September

ESCAP/IMO Regional Policy-level Seminar on Safety of Coastal and Inland Navigation, Bangkok, November

Seminar on Developing Ecotourism in the Asian Region, Bangkok, November

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on the Toll Road System in Japan, Tokyo, November

Seminar-cum-Study Tour on the Upgrading of Asian Highway Routes, Bangkok, November

RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development, third meeting, Bangkok, November

Statistics

Working Party on the Application of New Technology to Population Data, second meeting, Singapore, April

Joint OECD/ESCAP Meeting on National Accounts: the 1993 System of National Accounts, Five Years On, Bangkok, May

SIAP/ESCAP Workshop on the Year 2000 Problem in Computers and Strategic Issues for National Statistical Offices, Bangkok, June

Workshop on the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts, Bangkok, October

Seminar on the Application of Information Technology in National Statistical Offices, Taejon, Republic of Korea, December

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Informal Consultative Meeting between the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Delegations of Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, April

ESCAP/KDI (Korea Development Institute) Study Visit for Overcoming Institutional Constraints on Implementing Macroeconomic Policies, Seoul, June

Expert Group Meeting on Options for Exchange Rate Policy in Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, September-October

National Workshop on Enhancing Efficiency in External Aid Utilization, Dhaka, December

C. List of advisory services

Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

Bangladesh: (i) to advise on and review the present modes (and mixes) of financing fiscal deficits and recommend improvements; (ii) to review the present system of lending by government to the State-owned enterprises; and (iii) to review the capital structure (debt versus equity) of State-owned enterprises and advise on the practice of converting debt into equity

Hong Kong, China, to hold consultations with Hong Kong Trade Development Council officials on the implications of the return of Hong Kong to China for intraregional trade

India: (i) on methodology for re-engineering the trade process prior to the introduction of EDI; (ii) on the electronic commerce pilot project at Mumbai for sectoral application; and (iii) on improving and strengthening information collection and processing at the National Centre for Trade Information

Macau: (i) to advise the Economic Services Division of the Government of Macau on implementation issues for their EDI pilot project; and (ii) to provide technical assistance on implementation of the EDI pilot project

Micronesia (Federated States of), on identification of investment opportunities

Mongolia, to the Board of Foreign Investment of Mongolia on strengthening the Board

Myanmar, to advise at the national seminar on maximizing benefits for ASEAN and trade facilitation on standardization of trade documents, use of trade documentation software of ESCAP and on follow-up

Nepal, to advise the Government on matters regarding trade policy, trade negotiations and accession to WTO

Papua New Guinea: (i) to brief government officials on current international trade developments, especially on WTO, and regional and subregional arrangements; (ii) to advise on the establishment of free trade zones; and (iii) to provide technical assistance to provincial officials involved in the implementation of free trade zones at Vanimo

Philippines: (i) to advise the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Lucena City, Quezon Province, on trade policy, negotiations and trade promotion; (ii) to assist in the conduct of a seminar on trade promotion in the global trade environment at Zamboanga City; (iii) to advise the National Economic Development Agency of Zamboanga City on issues relating to the introduction of electronic commerce for promoting Zamboanga as the trading hub of the proposed Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA); and (iv) to provide assistance to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Manila

Sri Lanka, to design pre-transaction information exchange for the Sri Lanka Export Development Board

Thailand: (i) to advise the Government on introducing micro-level initiatives in the conduct of international trade; (ii) to advise the Department of Business Economics, Ministry of Commerce on trade policy issues and trade-related industrial development and investment policy matters; and (iii) to assist the Agri-Business Promotion Division, Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, on export facilitation of agricultural and handicraft products

Tonga: (i) to render technical assistance to the Government on aligning the trade documents in conformity with the United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents; (ii) to advise the Government on matters regarding its accession to WTO and on trade promotion and export market development matters; and (iii) to provide assistance to the Industry Division, Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries

Vanuatu, to advise the Government on matters regarding its accession to WTO

Viet Nam: (i) to explain and advise on the use of the trade documentation software of ESCAP at a workshop on trade and investment opportunities and trade facilitation resources for the private sector; and (ii) to discuss trade facilitation issues with officials of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Commerce

Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Cambodia, to advise the Ministry of Commerce on the implementation and operation of procedures relating to the development of a system for certificates of origin for garment exports

Kyrgyzstan, to assist the Ministry of Finance in (i) designing an appropriate mix of macroeconomic (monetary and fiscal), trade, industrial and science, and technological policies, with regard to implementing the twin project of macroeconomic stability and promotion of broad-based economic growth; and (ii) institutional reforms, in particular further enhancement of the privatization process

Uzbekistan, on the privatization of State-owned enterprises in economies in transition, with special focus on post-privatization support and restructuring of privatized industrial enterprises

Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology

Cambodia, to render advisory services on the experience of the Republic of Korea in the enhancement of science and technology skills

India, to render advisory services at the First National Consultancy Congress on Globalization and Consultancy Opportunities

Islamic Republic of Iran, to provide advisory services in connection with the establishment of industrial and technological databank networks

Lao People's Democratic Republic, on wastewater technology

Viet Nam, on wastewater technology

Environment and sustainable development

Azerbaijan, on promotion of the mineral resources sector

Cambodia: (i) to assist the Government on policy to enhance investment in mineral exploration and production activities; and (ii) to advise the Cambodian National Mekong Committee on Strategic Planning of the Tonle Sap Lake Development

China, on the preparation and publication of the poster on meteorological satellite applications

India, to advise on the preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of the waste management institute and to review the technical, legal and institutional aspects of waste management

Indonesia, to advise the Department of Mining and Energy on matters relating to the development and promotion of clean-coal technology

Islamic Republic of Iran, to render advisory services on audit procedures, analysis of data, and to assist in the preparation of a pre-feasibility study for the Tehran Cement Company No. 7 Plant, as requested by the Ministry of Energy

Kazakhstan, to provide advisory services regarding the energy audit at the Shymkent Refinery, Shymkent, Kazakhstan

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to review policies and planned activities for the development of the mineral sector and small-scale mining operations

Macau: (i) to advise the environmental technical bureau and provide technical services on the preparation of the draft Macau environmental action/management plan; and (ii) to provide assistance at the International Conference on the Pearl River Estuary in the Surrounding Area of Macau in coastal environmental management plans for the areas of Macau, Guangdong and Hong Kong, China

Mongolia: (i) to advise the Ministry for Protection of Nature and Environment on formulating a water resources policy, (ii) to provide technical advisory services to the Ministry on the implementation of the Environment Impact Assessment Law of Mongolia; (iii) to advise the Ministry on economic evaluation and pricing of water; (iv) to advise the Ministry on an action plan for environmental impact assessment and on water pricing; and (v) to assist the Ministry in the technical organization of a national seminar on environmental impact assessment implementation

Myanmar, to the National Commission for Environmental Affairs, on the coastal environment management plan

Nepal, to assess and advise on plans for energy demand management

Philippines: (i) to advise the Department of Energy field office in Mindanao on economic evaluation of mini-hydro projects; (ii) to provide technical advisory services to the Department on environmental management of the energy development programme; and (iii) to advise the Department of Energy on the preparation of training material in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Republic of Korea, to collaborate with and assist the Korea Electric Power Research Institute in the preparation of the training manual on pollution reduction in coal-fired power plants

Thailand: (i) to advise and assist the Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in conducting a training workshop on poverty alleviation with special reference to environmental and natural resources management, Kalasin Province; and (ii) to advise the Department of Public Welfare, Chiang Mai, and conduct a training workshop on the integration of environmental management aspects into the activities of the Self-help Land Settlement and Hilltribe Welfare Divisions

Viet Nam, to provide advisory services to the Institute of Water Resources Planning of Viet Nam, Hanoi

Poverty alleviation: social development

Bangladesh, to advise the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture concerning the identification of areas for youth skills development as a basis for the conduct of national human resources development training courses for youth development

Brunei Darussalam, to assist the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of Finance, in poverty alleviation evaluation in relation to the National Household Expenditure Survey

Fiji: (i) to advise on training for the new regionalization policy for the Ministry of Regional Development and Multi-ethnic Affairs; (ii) to assist in the development of regional planning systems within the national planning machinery; and (iii) to advise on management practices for the Fiji Disabled People's Association

Hong Kong, China, to assist the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in defining the role of the Council in social development in Hong Kong, China for the twenty-first century and in formulating strategies aimed at meeting the needs of vulnerable groups; and to provide guidance to the Council on ways and means to mobilize resources and optimize the use of regional and international networks to help the Council in its work programme

India, to advise the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on ways and means of mobilizing regional and international resources to assist in meeting the goals and targets for social development for vulnerable groups, and to provide feedback on a proposed design for evaluation of the impact of programmes aimed at improving the well-being and promoting the social integration of Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable groups

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to advise the Revolutionary Youth Union on training to enhance youth skills and participation in national development

Malaysia: (i) to assist the National Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations in developing a plan of action which would enable the organization and its affiliates to promote the concerns of the population of older persons in the country more effectively; and (ii) to assist the Borneo Marine Research Unit in conducting a social assessment of fishing communities in Sabah and their potential for integrated development

Nepal, to advise the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture concerning the identification of areas for youth skills development as a basis for the conduct of national human resources development training courses for youth development

Pakistan, to assist the Planning Commission in (i) assessment of the magnitude of poverty in Pakistan; (ii) recommendations for structural changes in the alleviation of poverty; (iii) suggestions for policies and programmes for overcoming poverty; and (iv) to comment and provide guidance on the chapter on poverty alleviation as contained in the ninth five-year development plan (1998-2003)

Philippines: (i) to assist the National Economic Development Authority in reviewing the policy of convergence in the implementation of the Social Reform Agenda and to design tools and instruments for monitoring and evaluation; and (ii) to assess the needs of the Cooperative Development Authority for advisory services

Samoa, to advise the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture on its corporate planning process and to assist in Samoa's youth policy development

Thailand: (i) to assist the Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in conducting the training workshop for senior staff of Self-help Land Settlement Schemes at Khon Kaen and Kalasin Province; (ii) to assist the Department of Public Welfare (Hilltribe Welfare Division and Self-help Land Settlement Division), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in the training workshop on poverty alleviation methodologies; and (iii) to advise the Department of Public Welfare on social development strategies for the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

Vanuatu, on the Vanuatu poverty study

Viet Nam, to the Viet Nam Youth Federation, on the design and implementation of national youth policy frameworks

Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

Nepal, on the fertilizer policy of Nepal

Philippines, to provide assistance in the creation of an urban forum, Cebu

Poverty alleviation: population and development

Bangladesh, to provide technical assistance to the National Institute of Statistics in the conduct of the population and housing census

Cambodia, to assist the Government in demographic teaching

China, to provide technical assistance/training to the China Population Information and Research Centre on preparation of the Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin

Islamic Republic of Iran, to assist in the finalization of the country population assessment report

Kyrgyzstan, to assist in the preparation and finalization of the country population assessment report

Myanmar: (i) to assist at the international seminar on internal migration; and (ii) to assist in the finalization of the Myanmar Programme of Action on Population and Development as part of the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

Philippines, to the Ministry of Education, on the linkage between population and environment

Transport and communications

Bangladesh, to evaluate the feasibility of and advise on the establishment of an inland water transport centre in Bangladesh and to assist the Bangladeshi counterparts in collecting the requisite data and information

Nauru, to assist the Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority in planning for a small port facility to support a local fish market industry

Republic of Korea, on the facilitation of maritime traffic (joint ESCAP/IMO activity)

Thailand: (i) to assist the Industrial Estate Authority in reviewing port developments for phase two works at the Map Ta Phut industrial port, to advise on management and operational requirements and to undertake on-the-job training; and (ii) to advise on the improvement of the Web page creation and display of the Web site of the Merchant Marine Institute, Chulalongkorn University

Vanuatu, to advise the Government on the Malekula fishing base project in Santo

Viet Nam, to advise on tourism marketing

Statistics

Bhutan, on the activities to be undertaken for improvement of the Bhutan SNA

Brunei Darussalam, on the estimation of GDP and the compilation of the 1993 SNA

India, to the Central Statistical Organization, New Delhi, on national accounts

Macau, on the compilation of GDP and production approaches and implementation of the 1993 SNA

Myanmar, to assist with training on the 1993 SNA and to advise on its implementation

Nepal, to the Central Bureau of Statistics on the implementation of the 1993 SNA

Thailand, to assist with training for national accounts compilers and data producers with regard to concepts underlying the national accounts compilation and to assess the data for the implementation of the 1993 SNA

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Cook Islands: (i) to assist the Ministry of Outer Islands Development and the Port Authority on possible improvements to the entrance at the port of Arutanga in Aitutaki to cater for deep-sea vessels; and (ii) to assist the Port Authority in updating requirements and improvements of navigational aids and port infrastructure at Avatiu international harbour, Rarotonga

Fiji: (i) to facilitate a session on financial regulations at the UNDP/Forum Secretariat workshop on the Pacific island countries' "accountability stocktake"; and (ii) to assist in the implementation of recommendations for developing Suva port as a centre for foreign fishing and flagged vessels

French Polynesia, to assist in a presentation on planning for youth development at the Fourth Regional Youth Conference, June 1998

Marshall Islands, to review and advise on social development planning, especially for youth

Micronesia (Federated States of), to review and advise on social development planning and budgeting, especially for youth

Nauru: (i) to review the position of Nauru's currency proposal and assist in its negotiations with ADB; and (ii) to advise on the reform of the banking sector

Niue, on the socio-economic impact study of Niue (part one)

Samoa, to assist in the corporate planning process at SPREP and at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and to advise on the development of a national youth policy

Solomon Islands: (i) to advise the Government on negotiations with domestic creditors, IMF, World Bank, ADB, the European Union and bilateral sources, and to review enhancement measures and planning of public service reforms; (ii) to facilitate a seminar reviewing the Solomon Western Island Fair Trade (SWIFT) sustainable forestry project; (iii) to provide assistance to the Government in the review of progress in the Policy and Structural Reform Programme and in streamlining the administration of the Programme; (iv) to assist the Government in preparing for the National Economic Summit; (v) to advise Solomon Islands authorities on a review of the first six months of the Policy and Structural Reform Programme; and (vi) to advise the Solomon Islands Policy and Structural Reform Committee and Subsidiary Task Force and to complete a report on the Programme

Tonga: (i) to review and advise on social development planning; and (ii) to advise on the preparation of the next Tonga Development Plan, and discuss macroeconomic stability measures with the Reserve Bank through liaison with ministers and senior officials of the Government

Tuvalu: (i) to provide technical advisory services to the Development Bank of Tuvalu; (ii) to assist the Government in planning the merger of the National Bank and the Development Bank; and (iii) to advise on the development of good governance issues

Vanuatu: (i) to assist on social indicators for the Comprehensive Reform Programme; (ii) to advise the Vanuatu National Council of Women on planning, organizing and convening a national workshop of NGOs on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (iii) to assist the Council in its strategic planning exercise; (iv) to advise on the poverty study survey; and (v) to advise on the policy for governmental-NGO cooperation for poverty alleviation

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macau, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VII

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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ISSN: 0252 - 2284
Printed at ESCAP, Bangkok
June 1999 - 1,420

United Nations publication
E/1999/39
E/ESCAP/1155